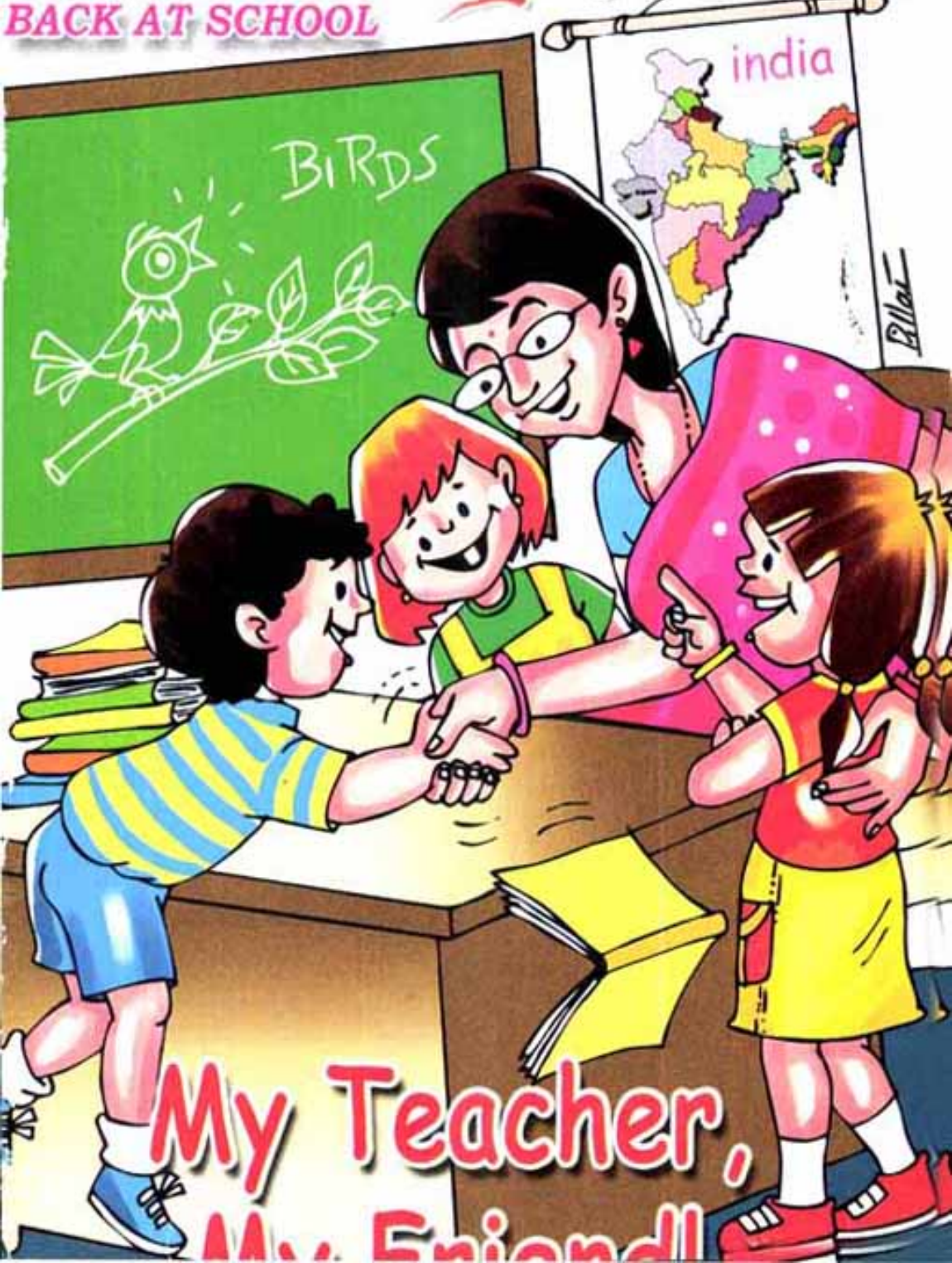
June 2008 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

BACK AT SCHOOL



My Teacher, My Friend!

PARLE
Ram and Shyam
Circus of Troubles
MMM...POPPINS!
POPPINS
RAM & SHYAM ARE EXCITED THAT THEIR UNCLE RAJ HAS INVITED THEM TO A MAGIC SHOW.
WE'RE LATE AND I HATE MISSING ANY MOMENT OF THIS FAMOUS CIRCUS. THE OWNER MR. TIMBER, IS A GOOD FRIEND OF UNCLE RAJ.
REACHING OUTSIDE THE TENT, THEY SEE SOMETHING'S WRONG.
IT'S TOO QUIET HERE. SHOULDN'T THERE BE A LOT OF NOISE AND ACTION?
LET'S PEEP FROM HERE TO SEE WHAT'SHAPPENING.
MY NAME IS MR. MAGNIFICO, AND ALL OF YOU WILL LISTEN TO MY COMMANDS.
WHY IS NO ONE FIGHTING HIM?
MR. MAGNIFICO'S HYPNOTIZED EVERYONE.
ABRA-CA-DABRA, COME OUT MY SLAVES AND AT MY SIGNAL, UNLEASH TERROR.
LADIES & GENTLEMEN, MY SLAVES HERE WILL SOON BE STRIPPING YOU OF YOUR VALUABLES. DO CO-OPERATE OR ELSE...
WE NEED TO STOP HIM.
IF WE BREAK HIS HOLD OVER THE PEOPLE, THEY'LL TAKE HIM DOWN.
I HAVE AN IDEA. FIRST, LET'S HAVE THE POPPINS.
STOP THEM, FOOLS.
THE PERFORMERS STRETCH THEIR HANDS OUT TO CATCH THEM BUT FAIL.
THEY STOP IN FRONT OF MR. MAGNIFICO AND SHYAM TAKES OUT THE DEENERGISER FROM BEHIND AND ZAPS THE VILLAIN WITH IT.
AAAAHH STTTOPP...
THANKS BOYS, YOU HELPED MY PEOPLE AND SAVE THE DAY. HERE'S 2 LIFETIME PASSES TO MY CIRCUS FOR THE TWO OF YOU.
THE BOYS, MR. TIMBER AND THE PERFORMERS ENJOY THEIR POPPINS
PARLE
POPPINS

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

June 2008 Vol.XX, No.11

KALKI GROUP HOUSE of QUALITY

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

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THE Magazine for Children

Message From A Magical World !

Dear Reader,

The final Harry Potter film, "The Deathly Hallows," is facing a series of mishaps! First, a shooting had to be cancelled when a storm hit the set and battered it! Daniel Radcliffe, the super star of Harry Potter movies is receiving death threats from a stalker! Moreover the teen-age star had to risk performing a daring stunt scene when his double failed to show up! Fog, unexpectedly delayed shooting several times.

"It is a curse," say people working for the production. "The movie is jinxed! Dark forces are at work to prevent us from finishing it!'

Though it is scheduled to be released only in November 2010, those involved are already feeling nervous! Surely the creator of Harry Potter will not be happy over this development.

When she wrote those books, was it her intention to create belief in superstitions? Or, was it her desire that her readers should develop faith and determination to fight evil in whatever form?

Harry Potter's magical world has a wonderful message for all of us. Let us not distort it.

- Editor

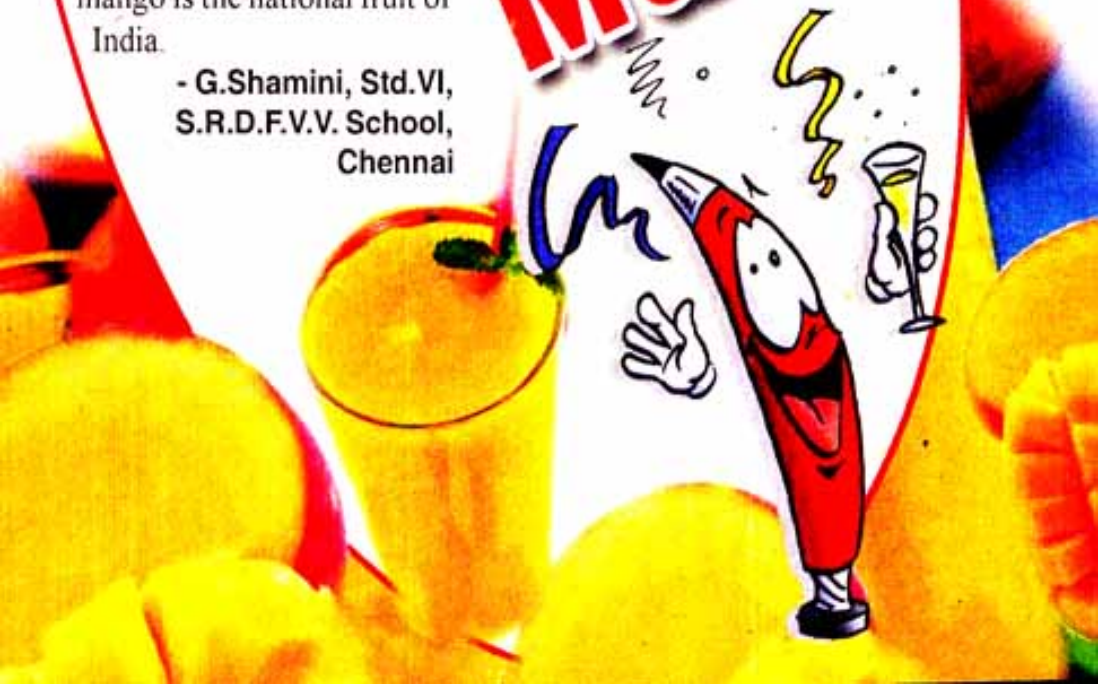
Seasonal

Mango

The fruit mango, of the tree mangifera indica, is one of the most widely cultivated fruits of the tropical world. This juicy, delicious fruit is a source of vitamins A, C and D. In India, there are hundreds of varieties of mangoes, in different sizes, shapes and colours.

Mangoes, have been cultivated in India since time immemorial. The famous Indian poet Kalidasa sang its praise. The mango finds a place in Hindu mythological stories too!

King Alexander relished its taste, as did the Chinese traveller Huein Tsang. Akbar, the Mughal emperor planted over 100,000 mango trees in Dharlanga, known as Lakhi Bagh. The mango is the national fruit of India.



- G.Shamini, Std.VI,
S.R.D.F.V.V. School,
Chennai

Cover Story

Most of us are happy to get back to school after a long break. But, we do feel a little apprehensive about the 'new class teacher' we have to cope with. Will this teacher be too demanding? Will he punish us for the tiny, friendly pranks that we love? Or will he/she take these in good stride and go on with classes? Will this teacher be good at explaining lessons? These are some of the questions at the back of our mind as we put things together to face

MY TEACHER

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECK-LIST!

Bag	☐	Pencil box	☐	Pencils	☐
Eraser	☐	Sharpener	☐	Pen	☐
Scale	☐	Geometry box	☐	Glue	☐
Scissors	☐	(Child proof)		Colour pencils	☐
Note books (covered)	☐	Books (covered)	☐	Tape	☐
Label	☐	Rough note	☐	Dictionary	☐
Atlas	☐	Diary/ Calendar	☐	Photos	☐
		Address list (slips)	☐	Snack box	☐
		Water can	☐	Lunch box	☐
		Lunch bag	☐	Belt	☐
		Tie	☐	I.D. card	☐
		Socks	☐	Shoes	☐
		Uniform	☐	Blazer	☐
		Badge	☐		

- Suklesh.S.Rao, Std.V,
Ryan International School, Bengalooru

the next academic year.

Nearly half a century ago, when I went to kindergarten, the teacher let me snuggle up to her when I initially felt lonely. Most children would do this with Sita Miss, as she was known, and very soon settled down to rhymes and games.

Later, in middle-school Geetha Miss would host an annual tea party for us at her home, and in high school, the strict but caring Miss Vijayalakshmi helped us to chalk out our plans for college.

Seetha Ravi

How can we help our teachers to be our friends as well? For a beginning let's be friends with them. Wear a big smile when you go back to school and give the teacher a small welcome gift from your class. When lessons begin, put pranks and play aside and give your attention fully. Each teacher is different, just as each of you children are different. Try to understand your teacher as you

MY FRIEND!

Today these gestures are very rare among teachers - mainly because there are far too many children to a teacher in most schools.

Ofcourse, there are some schools which keep the student-teacher ratio ideal and help to maintain friendly vibes between them. In these schools, students even address their teachers as Anna, Akka or Didi, Bhaiya, Chithi (Brother, Sister, Aunt)!

The magic lies in finding the golden mean - of being a good teacher AND a good friend at the same time.

This is not impossible. We have a very good example of this fine relationship in the Mahabharath: Krishna who was Arjuna's fine friend was also his wise and strict teacher!

make an effort to understand your friends and your lessons.

Good luck and Have a great year!

MY TEACHER SHOULD BE...

Four students were selected to help produce the Tamil edition of Gokulam June issue. They were at Gokulam office from 2nd to 16th May and did a great job. Here's their contribution to Gokulam (English) cover story - a wish list of what a teacher should be...!

A fine teacher should conduct class tests atleast once in a week. He should be fair while correcting the answer papers. He should speak to the students with understanding and care and never be rough or rude.

- N.Varun, Std. IX,
Alagappa Matric Hr.Sec.School, Karaikudi

My teacher should be strict inside the class, but he should be friendly outside the campus. He should know each and everything about the lesson he is going to teach. He should come to the school at the right time and be present in the class throughout the day. It would be nice if he gave students the freedom to make their choices. He must be caring and should never let down his students under any circumstance.

- K.Nithyananthan, Std.XI, Trichy

My teacher should be friendly with all the students. Her classes shouldn't be boring. She should make us feel that to miss even a single class of hers would be a loss. She should offer moral support under any circumstance, and be a second mother. She should clarify our doubts whenever we seek her help. She should hold discussions inbetween class hours, on various matters - not necessarily the lessons. Classes should be filled with fun and humour.

- Yazhini Anbumani, Std.IX,
Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam Matric School, Erode

A teacher should take special care over the weak students and make them shine. She should help students in building their knowledge and character. She should make them understand each and every word in the book. She should never discourage or beat them.

- A.Anees Fathima, Std.XI, Bodinayakanur

School Event

Unusual Assembly

I study in Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhandup, Mumbai. We have four long buildings forming a quadrangle where our morning assembly is conducted. The morning assembly starts at 07.30 hrs after the second bell with a roll call (attendance). The prayer group consists of a drum, harmonium and a tabla player. Obviously it would be incomplete without 20-25 singers!

First we have the prayer, which is followed by pin-drop silence throughout the ground for 30 seconds. Next is the pledge, and a good thought for the day and the news. Then we all celebrate our younger primary friends' birthdays.

This is followed by a special program which is conducted everyday, and this varies from shlokas to dramas in three different languages! Monday, Wednesday and Friday in English, Tuesday and Saturday in Hindi, and on Thursday in Sanskrit. Except for the prayer and National anthem everything else is conducted in the three languages!

But sometimes the special programs are too long and our legs start aching, as we have to stand. But we have devised our own ways of seeking relief. Many of us remove our shoe laces and tie it again. In this way we can sit for few seconds to relax our legs! Pretty good idea isn't it?

After this we have our National Anthem and later all the students march into their respective classes. All of us love our assembly very much. Isn't it unusual?

- G. Anvesh Kumar, Std.X, Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhandup, Mumbai

News Digest

• Myanmar - devastated

severe earthquake hit South - west China taking a toll of 9000 lives and the number is increasing.

• • •

A single Satellite launch vehicle of ours, the P.S.L.V., released ten satellites into earth orbit and all of them are functioning well. This great achievement will bring down drastically the cost of launching satellites. We are already helping

Ban Slapped

Calamities do occur, but in the recent past they have occured very often. After the wide spread Tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake, it is now the turn of Myanmar cyclone in which more than 10,000 people are feared dead. Soon after, a

other nations to launch their satellites using our PSLV rockets.

Closely following this feat Agni III was test fired successfully. Agni III is a missile which can carry war heads and has a strike range of 3500 km.

• • •

The heat wave this summer is unprecedented in India and has claimed several lives. Perhaps this is part of the global warming. The trend needs deep study and urgent remedial steps.

• • •

Assembly elections in Karnataka were peaceful. The B.J.P. narrowly missed securing a majority, but with support from just three others, is getting, ready to form a government.

• • •

On Bhaji

Our Finance Minister is announcing corrective measures one after the other, but the inflation rate continues to rise and has reached 7.83% in mid-May. Opposition parties are launching agitations but no one seems to have a workable solution to contain sky-rocketing prices!

• • •

Harbhajan was suspended soon after he slapped Sreesanth in the face. He has been banned from playing in the remainder of the 20-20 matches. The B.C.C.I also slapped a punishment. He has been banned from playing five O.D.Is.

• • •

• Punished!

In a sting operation by a News channel, the Hockey Federation Secretary, Jothi Kumaran was seen accepting money. Following this, the Hockey Federation of India was suspended by the Indian Olympic Association. It is a sad day for hockey lovers and a grim reminder that

• Helpless?

• Victims of villainy - Jaipur.

injured more than 150 people. The Rajasthan government has formed a Special Investigat ng Team (S.I.T.) to find the killers. The B.J.P. is calling for more stringent laws to contain terrorism.

• Chinese catastrophe!

money power is eroding our sports.

• • •

Terrorists targetted the Pink City of Jaipur and the serial blasts took a toll of 60 lives and

• Appeals!

• • •

Union Health Minister, Anbumani Ramadoss has appealed to film stars not to highlight drinking or smoking on the silver screen. He feels and rightly so, that the youth of this country will be mislead and take after their favourite stars, resulting in damage to their health.

Birthday Bash!

Shruthi turns fifteen on 24th June. **Wish you a happy birthday! May all your wishes come true.**

- Sister Dharini, Parents and Friends

Relax!

Jokes

Arjun: In which state is the river Krishna?

Rahul: Andhra Pradesh.

Arjun: No, it's in liquid state!

Aparna: Why is the letter 'C' like a magician?

Siddarth: Because it can turn 'ash' into 'cash'.

Siva: How do you make a road broad?

Srinivas: When you add the letter B to it.

- S.Shree Guru, Std.IX, P.S.S.S.School

Son: My teacher said that I am a tiger at maths!

Father: Yes indeed! Tigers can't do sums either.

- S.Ragavan, Std.IX, M.G.C.V

Letter Box

✉ I've become an ardent fan of Gokulam in the past six months. It is a fund of knowledge for just Rs.10. Why don't you conduct an essay competition for kids?

- Sudham Padhan, First Year, Government S.T.School, Titilagarh, (Orissa)

✉ I was introduced to this magazine very recently. So many wonderful articles in one small book! I have told my friends about it too.

- Sheethal R.Holla, Anusha C.S, Std.VI, Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bengalooru

✉ My parents, teachers and Gokulam - are the three great influences on my character. Gokulam updates my knowledge and takes me around the world.

- Ranjani Suresh, Std.VIII, P.S.B.B.S.S.S., Chennai

✉ Gokulam is doing an incomparable job... its the best children's magazine in the world. It has made me develop an interest in various fields. I particularly like the stories written by Ajay Ashok.

- S. Varsha, Std.VIII, Ramniranjan Podar School, Mumbai

✉ I like the mag. Gokulam
As much as I like my Mom!
It's so so good to read
And caters to all my needs!

- A.G.Pallavi, Age: 11, Bellary

✉ It's nice to see that Gokulam is grooming many children into star writers. But you must have more competitions in every issue.

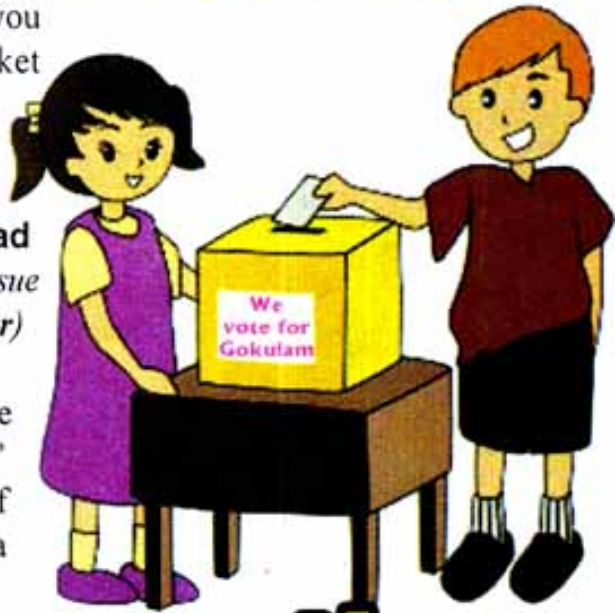
- G.Sailaxmi, Sri Sarada M.S, Ariyakulam

✉ I thank Gokulam for increas-

ing my fluency in English. Can you please publish posters of cricket players.

- R.Varsha,
Std.IX, K.V.,
Secunderabad

(We have a poster in this issue Varsha! See pages 40-41 - editor)



✉ My general knowledge and my 'Potter knowledge' have increased on account of Gokulam. I am proud to be a

Much more than a Magazine!

reader. I thank the editor and the design team.

- P.Padma Priya, Std.XII,
P.S.Chidambara Nadar
Girls H.S.S, Virudunagar

✉ I wait every month for my mother to bring me Gokulam from the news stand. After becoming a Gokulam reader I've learnt to write aricles on my own. Long live Gokulam!

- Shreyanka Shetty, Std.VI,
Sharadha Vidyalaya,
Mangalore

✉ Gokulam has won me over and I simply look forward to Cottage No.13. This magazine will grab more readers if made into a fortnightly.

- Anchanadevi J.G,
Std.X, K.V, (NAL),
Bengalooru.

✉ Gokulam is awesome. Its much more than a magazine (or newspaper) for kids. I was extremely happy to receive a participation certificate for my views regarding punishment, published in the December issue, viewpoint column.

- K.Karen, Std.IX,
Nirmala M.H.S.,
Chidambaram

Gender

Daughter; Laughter!

Daughter / Laughter are two words in which only the initial letter is different. But aren't they the most meaningful and significant words in the present scenario? Daughter and Laughter go hand in hand in many families. Girls always bring happiness and joy. Daughters share and care for the family in whatever role they play. Daughter is Laughter! To make them laugh we must educate them. We should encourage every daughter of our nation to be a prospective Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy, Indira Gandhi and a Kalpana Chawla. So our society must shun female infanticide as it would entail the loss of laughter which only a daughter can bring.

• Indira Gandhi

• Kalpana Chawla

• Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy

- D.Pon Janani, Std.XII,
O.C.P.M. Girls H.S.School, Madurai

Sports

Two Heroes!

It's been a different kind of summer holiday! Jetix and cartoon network have been shelved to give preference to IPL matches. And what wholesome entertainment! The matches have been well-worth the late nights.

Though many players new and old have created history in this series, two of them stand out in the crowd of achievers - Shane Warne and Gautam Gambhir!

Gambhir and his Pakistani counterpart Misba-Ul-Haq have batted their hearts out. Our precious Gambhir, Delhi's pride, is 27 years old and was the top scorer of the Indian team in the 20-20 against South Africa too. Delhi Daredevils recruited him on auction for a phenomenal 2.9 crores!This value will surely shoot up feverishly next year.

After losing the World Cup last year, Ganguly and Dravid were dropped from the Indian team and it was Gambhir who held the middle order batsmen together. He has come to be the crucial number three batsman and an effective one too.

Easily the best spin-bowler today, Shane Warne is one of the few

S.N.Kannan

• Shane Warne

who could be declared 'cricketer of the twentieth century'. At 38, he is as energetic as an eighteen-year-old and it is a treat to watch him prance around the field, even as he works to win matches.

Players like Steve Waugh and Ponting kept the Australian team captaincy out of reach for Warne. But Warne has proved his ability to lead a team by taking the Rajasthan Royals from a dismal position to a respectable one. RR rated as the weakest team, got transformed from a country mouse to a roaring lion, and most of the credit for this should go to Shane Warne. He whipped up team spirit by investing each player with a different responsibility. He always gave a patient ear to others' opinions.

The responsibility of leading a poorly rated team did not weigh him down. He kept up his fiery bowling too. Each time he was smashed for a six, he would retaliate by bowling a series of unpredictable balls to fox the batsman.

Though retired from first class cricket, Warne made a grand comeback in the IPL. It is said that the Australian Cricket Board is now seriously considering reinducting him into the team, and that Warne himself is not at all averse to the idea of a re-entry!

Look out for a poster of these two heroes in the centre-spread!

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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From Children
To Children!

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Serial Chapter -VII

As the vehicle zoomed out of the heritage village and headed towards the city, the children began playing anthakshari. They soon forgot about the previous night's episode. The co-ordinator was happy to see them cheer up though at the bottom of his heart he still wondered as to who the masked attackers were. He had instructed a couple of his fellow men to keep an eye on any untoward happenings during his absence.

The cultural trip of the city of Chennai began with a heritage walk in and around the ancient regions of Mylapore. The children were first lead to the two historic temples - Kapaleeshwar (temple of the Shaivites) and Parthasarthy (temple of the Vaishnavites). They then walked through the veedis(tiny streets) radiating from the temple premises and the girls immediately stopped by the innumerable shops selling all sorts of colourful fancy jewellery and trinkets.

"Ah there they go again!" the boys gasped in despair, "Wonder what they've got to buy all the time."

"Never mind, never mind," Mr. Parthasarthy laughed, "In fact the temple jewellery of this place is quite special and worth as keepsakes."

The group next visited a couple of ancient houses where they had a take on the traditional cuisine, attire and traditions. They also got to learn the art of Kolam (Rangoli)

Cottage Number 13

and were zapped at the intricate patterns displayed all along the veedis.

"This is a custom followed down the ages," the co-ordinator explained, "In fact it's proven that the kolams follow a unique geometrical pattern and of late serious research is going on in this field."

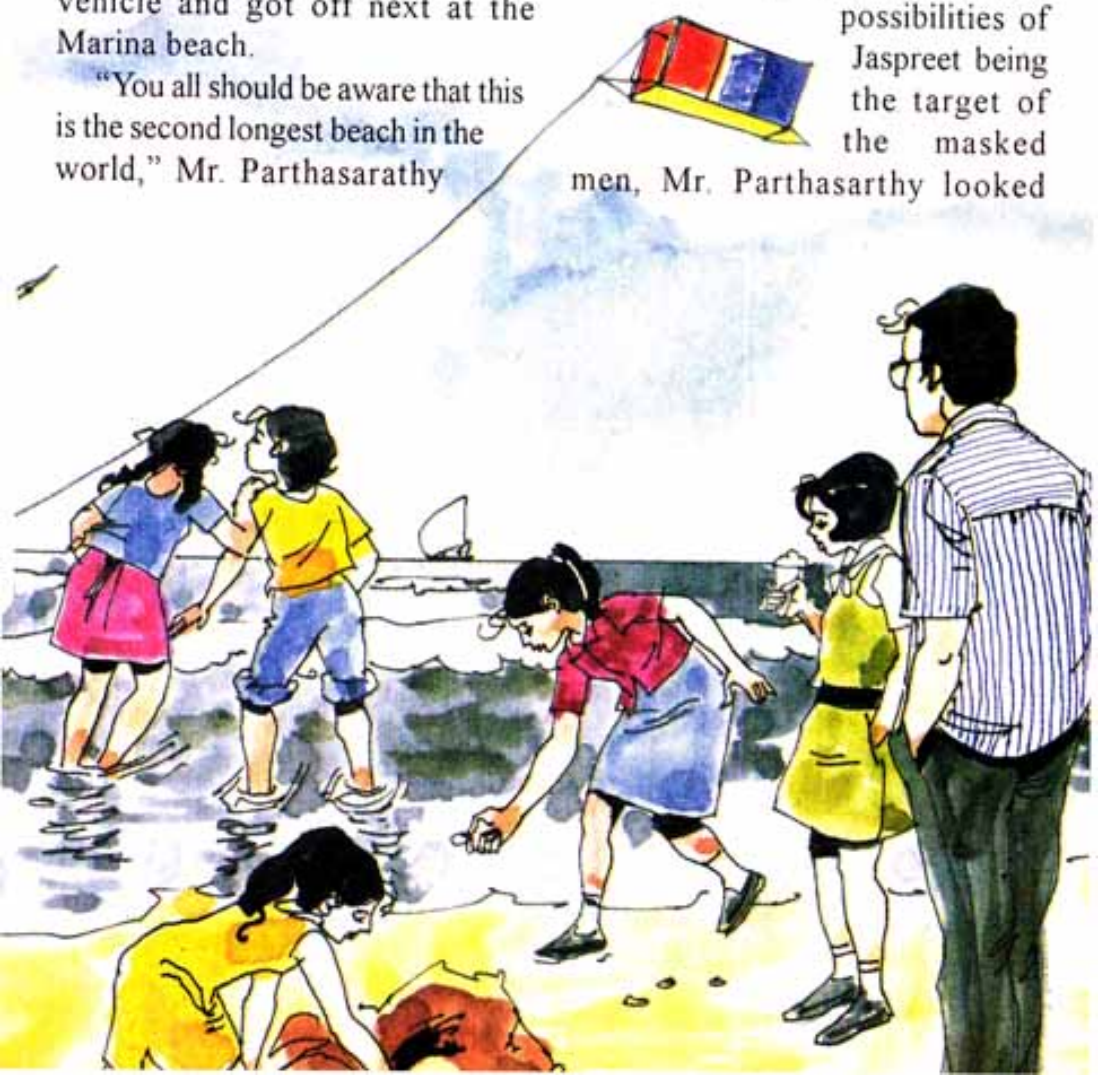
"That's amazing!" the children gasped as they tried their hands at the designs with the white powder.

The kids hopped back to their vehicle and got off next at the Marina beach.

"You all should be aware that this is the second longest beach in the world," Mr. Parthasarathy began his explanation. "And of course, the spot of the disastrous Tsunami of 2004."

"Now you all have half an hour to explore the Bay and take pictures for your project work." He added, "Be careful as you step into the sea and come back right here, next to this kite maker."

As the girls moved further, the boys stayed back for a while to talk to the co-ordinator. When they explained about the possibilities of Jaspreet being the target of the masked men, Mr. Parthasarthy looked



pensive.

"Hmm... this is cause to worry," he rubbed his sweating brow, "Have you told her already?"

"No Sir. We thought we would tell you first," Rajeev said. "You are the best person to decide what is to be done next."

"Well... I think we need to warn Jaspreet," Mr.Parthasarthy reasoned. "She has to be cautious and so does everybody else too."

"Who knows those attackers might have followed us even here," Varun blurted out looking at the innumerable strangers passing by, "It could be that balloon boy or that ice-cream-cola guy or even this kite maker here..." and he giggled as usual.

"Ah Varun, try to be serious please!" the rest of the group gasped.

"There's absolutely no need to panic," Mr. Parthasarthy tried to cheer the gang up. "Listen, you all stay in a group and there's nothing to fear. Remember, people who attack from the rear are always cowards and I'm sure our masked friends belong to that category."

"Now get going and rush to the waves," he tried to infuse cheer into the group, "Come on, I'll also join you all."

"Who knows those attackers might have followed us even here."

The girls seemed a little more startled when the co-ordinator warned them about the possibility of Jaspreet being the target of the untoward incidents which had occurred. Raksha instantly wanted to find out if Jassy was born on a 13th!

"But why me?" the girl from Delhi seemed puzzled, "Who could it be? and why again!"

"See, Jaspreet, it's a theory and we could be wrong," Mr.Parthasarthy said, "But then it's better you be fore-warned, isn't it?"

"Of course Sir, I agree."

"That's the spirit!" the co-ordinator applauded. "What is life if you are not ready to face challenges!"

"Now, do you all see that tall edifice over there?" he added changing the mood suddenly, "Well, that's the Santhome Church, built in the 17th century and an architectural delight. We are going there next and from Santhome we move on to the Fort area which holds the colonial wonders of the city. We'll then wind up for the day at the hospitable Brittos and Iyers who have welcomed us to be their guests. And tomorrow, you'll be embarking on another heritage walk which will take you down some of the oldest British settlements of the city," he concluded. "You'll be also visiting the Fort Museum and Robert Clive's mansion."

"Ah!" Varun groaned as the group proceeded back to their vehicle parked by the beach. "Wish I catch a bad cold tomorrow and stay back in my bed."

"Sometimes I wonder how you got selected for this programme in the first place," Emilda who was right behind the grumbling boy punched in. "You are a big misfit here."

"Ah, you know what Emmiee..." the boy began his cheekiness taking over as usual. "The selectors must have felt that there should be a misfit in a group of perfects to make them realize that it's advisable to be a perfect misfit than a misfit perfect so that whenever a misfit does something perfect it's always better than a perfect doing something misfit and...and....."

He turned to the befuddled girl and added, "I'm sure you won't understand what I'm saying. Afterall it's a matter of

Robber: *Hey! give me your purse, otherwise I will shoot you!*

(The man gives the purse)

Robber: *Ha!Ha! No bullet in the gun!*

Man: *Ha! Ha! Ha! No money in the purse.*

- A. Nirmala, Std.VII,
St.Anne's Girls Middle School,
Bengalooru

intellectuality, you see!"

Emilda couldn't help feeling amused as she tried her best to control a grin shaping up. 'Varun was just too much.' She decided as she followed the chuckling boy, into the van.

The Iyers and Brittos were more than enthu to host the kids. Apart from imparting their third generation knowledge of the history and culture of the city, they were inturn curious to hear about what the kids from different parts of the country had to convey about their rich heritage. After a traditional dinner the kids retired to their mammoth sized rooms they were in awe of the antedeluvian structure and furniture of a bygone era.

"Where do we get beds with posters and curtains these days!" Sonali hailed. "And just feel these feathery pillows!"

"I'm going to sleep like a log tonight," Emilda agreed slumping on to her single cot. "Good night girls!"

"Good night!" Sonali and Raksha responded, though for once Jassy seemed to remain quiet unlike her self.

Ever since she had listened to what the boys felt about the masked attackers, her mind had gone whirring in all directions wondering who it could be and why she of all the girls was a target. Though she had managed to sound bold and courageous, at the bottom of her heart there was still a little fear lurking, which kept her sleepless all through the night. She dreamt of wild shadows and masks following her wherever she went till they caught hold of her suddenly. She woke up with a start and found herself sweating all over. She wished Emilda was sleeping next to her like before. But when she heard the silent snores from the neighbouring cot, she didn't feel like disturbing the girl. She was about to cover herself with the sheet when she felt a movement next to her cot. The curtains moved aside and before she could let out a shriek, a familiar voice was speaking.

Before she could let out a shriek, a familiar voice was speaking.

(To be continued)

Jokes

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sanjay: What is your baby sister's name?
Kalaivani: I don't know, she can't speak yet.

Danush: What is your new dog's name...?
Karthik: I don't know he refuses to tell me!

Mary: Sonu, which hand do you write with?
Sonu: I usually, write with a pen!

- A. Nirmala, Std.VII, St.Anne's Girls Middle School, Bengalooru

Grandfather: At your age I could name all the presidents of our country and that too in the proper order.
Grandchild: At that time, there must havebeen only 3-4 presidents of India.

-Ananya Mishra, Std.VIII, Ruchika High School, Bhubaneshwar

Did You Know?

Birth of Trees!

Hi, Gokulam readers! Everyone knows Vanamahothsava or tree-planting ceremony falls in the month of June. But do you know there was a time when trees were non-existent. Here are a few snippets on how plant life started:

- People believe that the first plants were algae-like and lived in water, three million years ago.
- Trees appeared later during the Devonian time, and were from a group called 'Lepido-Dendons'.
- They did not produce flowers. Only 135 million years ago did the first flowering plants come into being.

Significance of Trees

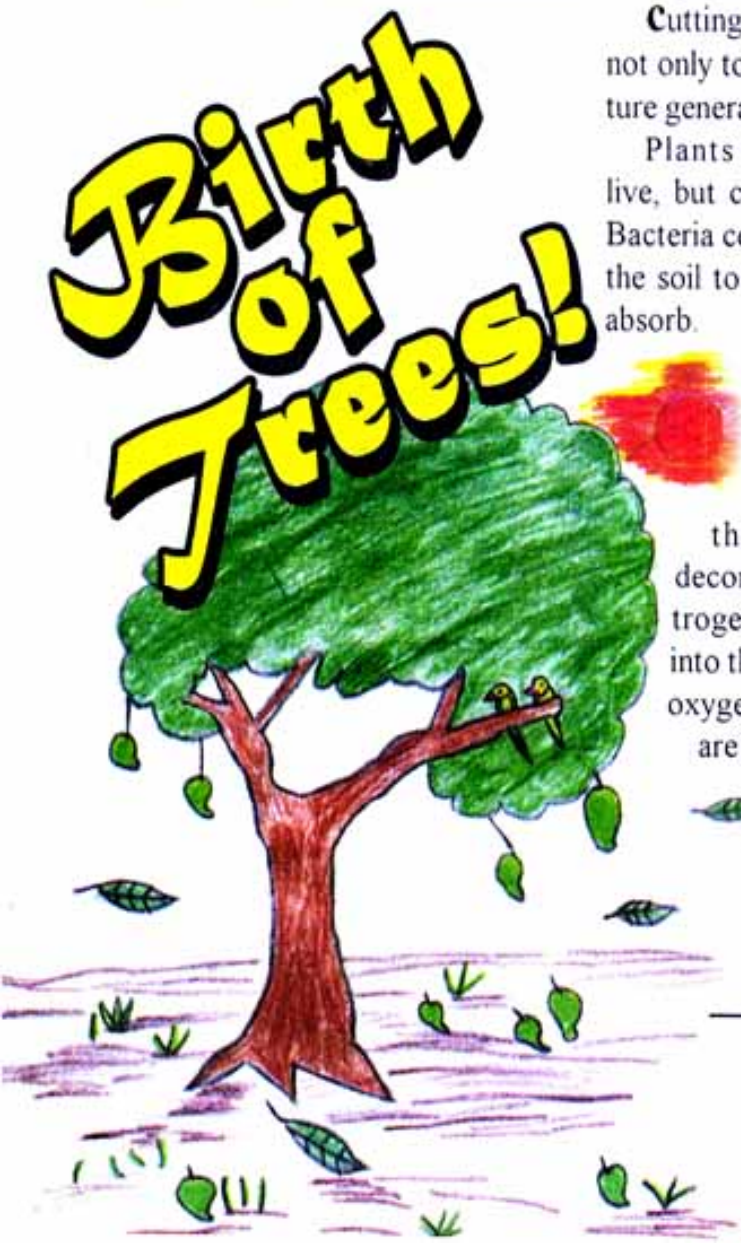
Cutting of trees can be lethal not only to us, but also to the future generations.

Plants need nitrogen to live, but cannot take it directly. Bacteria converts the nutrients in the soil to nitrogen for plants to absorb.

When a herbivore eats vegetation, it consumes the nitrogen as well. When the animal dies and decomposes it releases nitrogen in its original form into the soil again! Thus, the oxygen and nitrogen cycle are inter-connected.

Source: Children's Book of Knowledge.

- V.R.Chittaranjan, Std.VII, Oxford S.S.School



Drawing by:
Nibedita sahu, Std.II, St.Anne's School, Titilagarh, Orissa

Reach Out

Give Back to Society

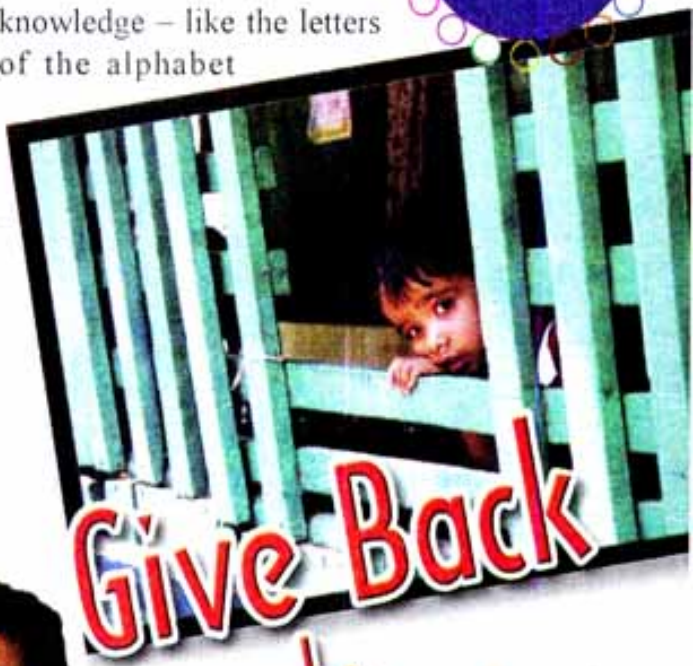
You must know that education plays an important role in the life of a child. It is the responsibility of society in general to ensure that every child is educated. Unfortunately, a high percentage of children in our country are deprived of education. Due to poverty, lack of guidance and other forces, children are forced to beg on the streets or end up as servants to earn a living.

But you and I can make a difference – we can make it our responsibility to make those less privileged self-reliant. Most of us become so self-oriented that we forget our moral and ethical responsibilities towards our fellow men.

From my reflection on this aspect, I would like to suggest the following:

1. Create a savings pool that can go towards the education of a child. Many NGOs have formats where you can sponsor a child's education.

2. You adopt a child in your neighbourhood whom you can teach basic knowledge – like the letters of the alphabet and numbers, basic mathematics, etc.



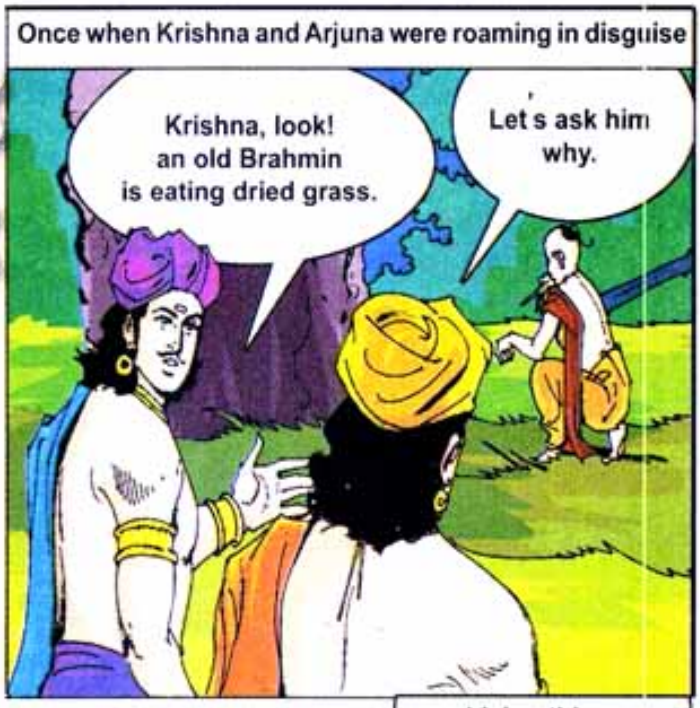
3. If you have maids and others from the neighbourhood slums working for your family, motivate and encourage them to send their children to schools.

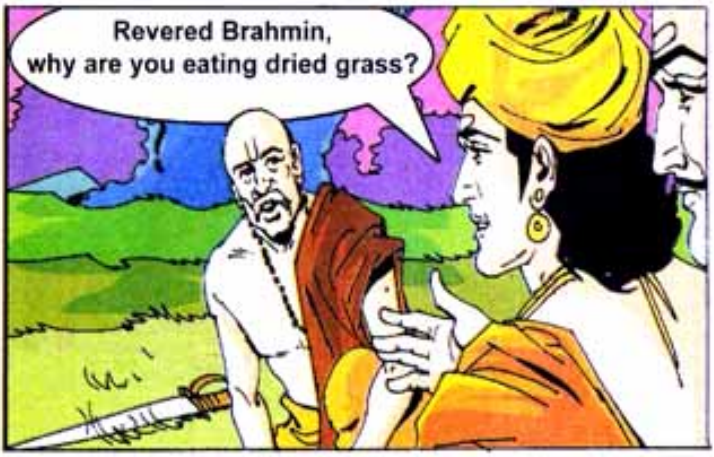
4. Be in touch with organizations that take care of abandoned children, so that you know where to go when you come across such children.

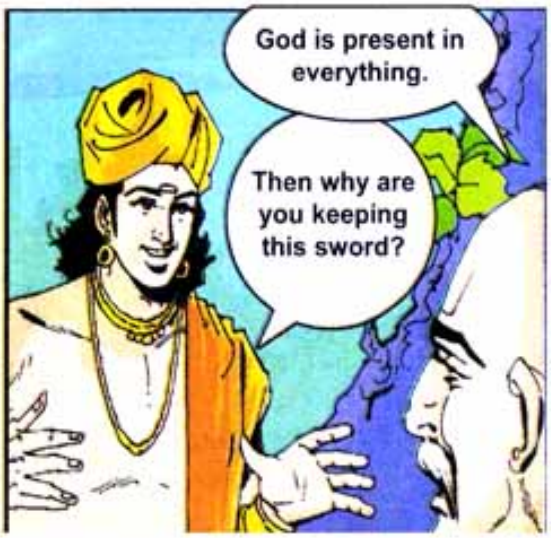
- K. Suchita Reddy, aged 13, St. Theresa High School, Hyderabad.

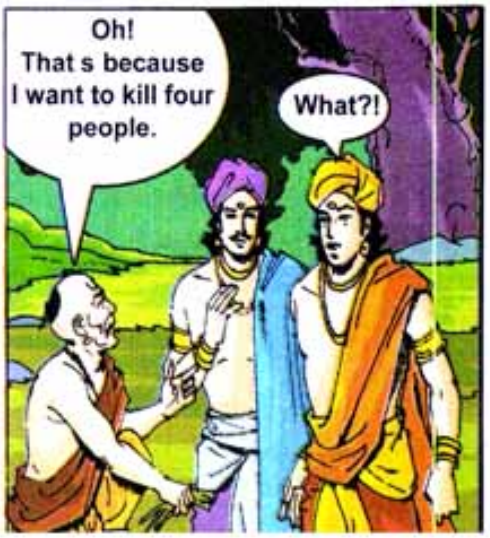
The True Devotee

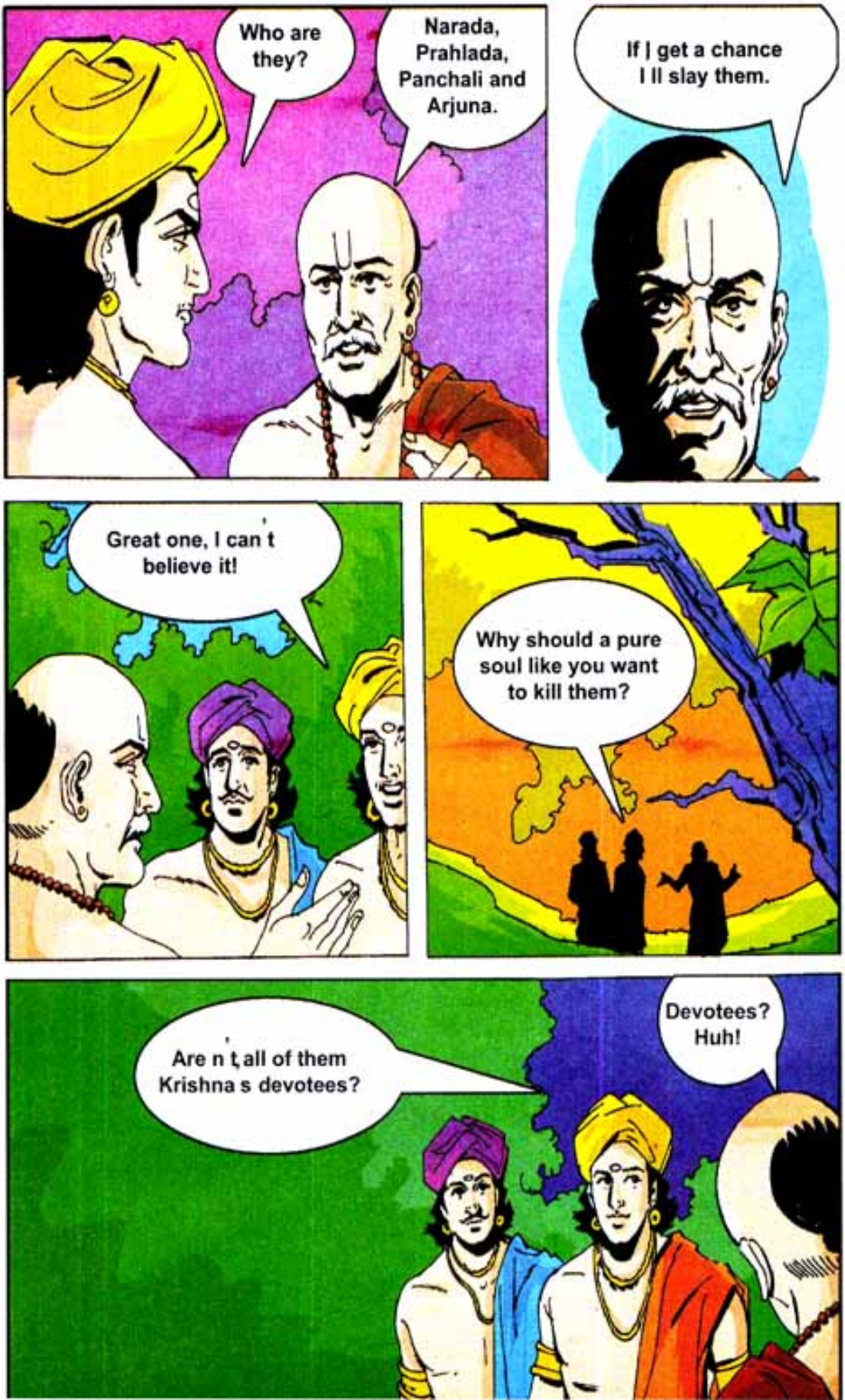
Jingle Bells feature

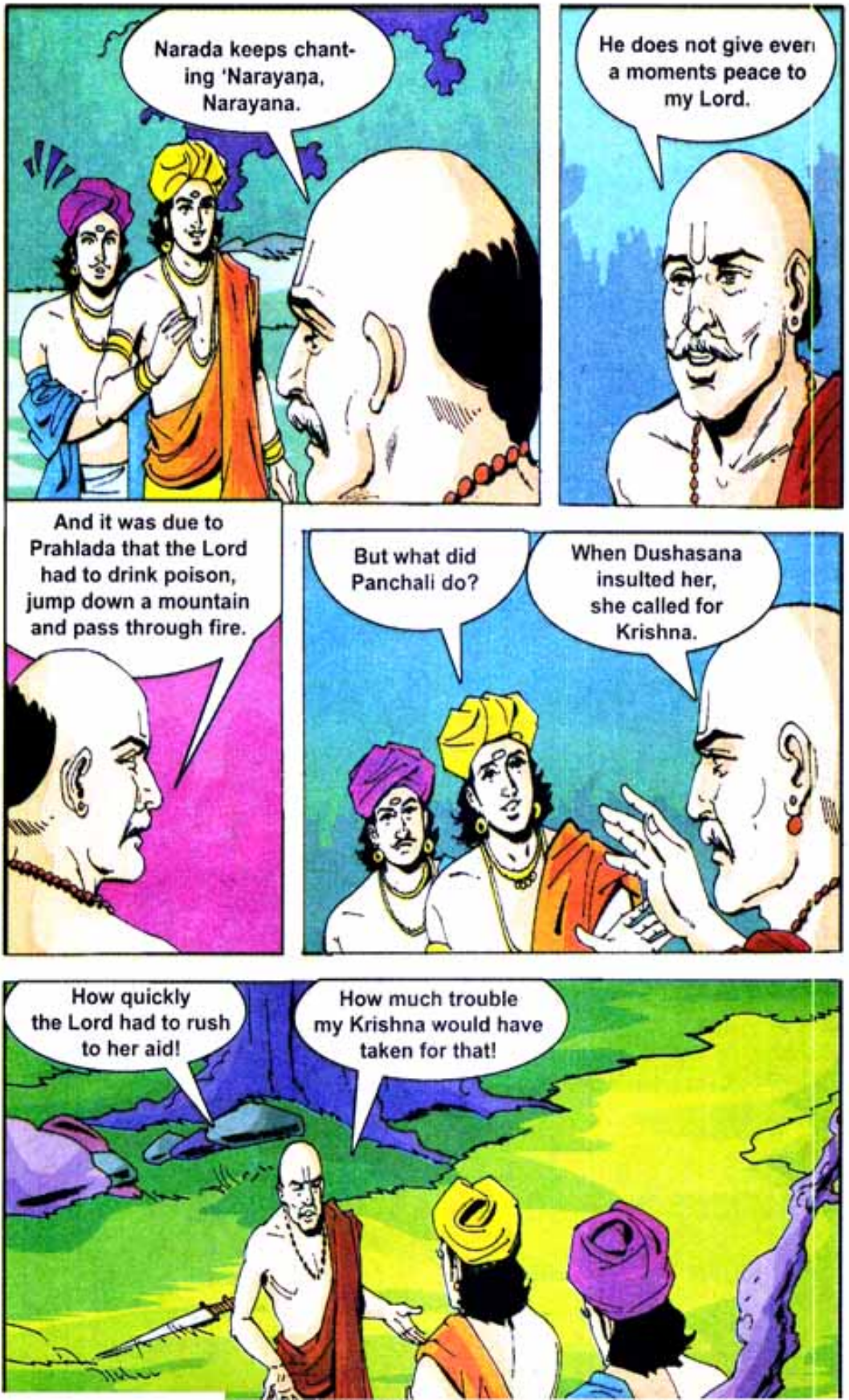


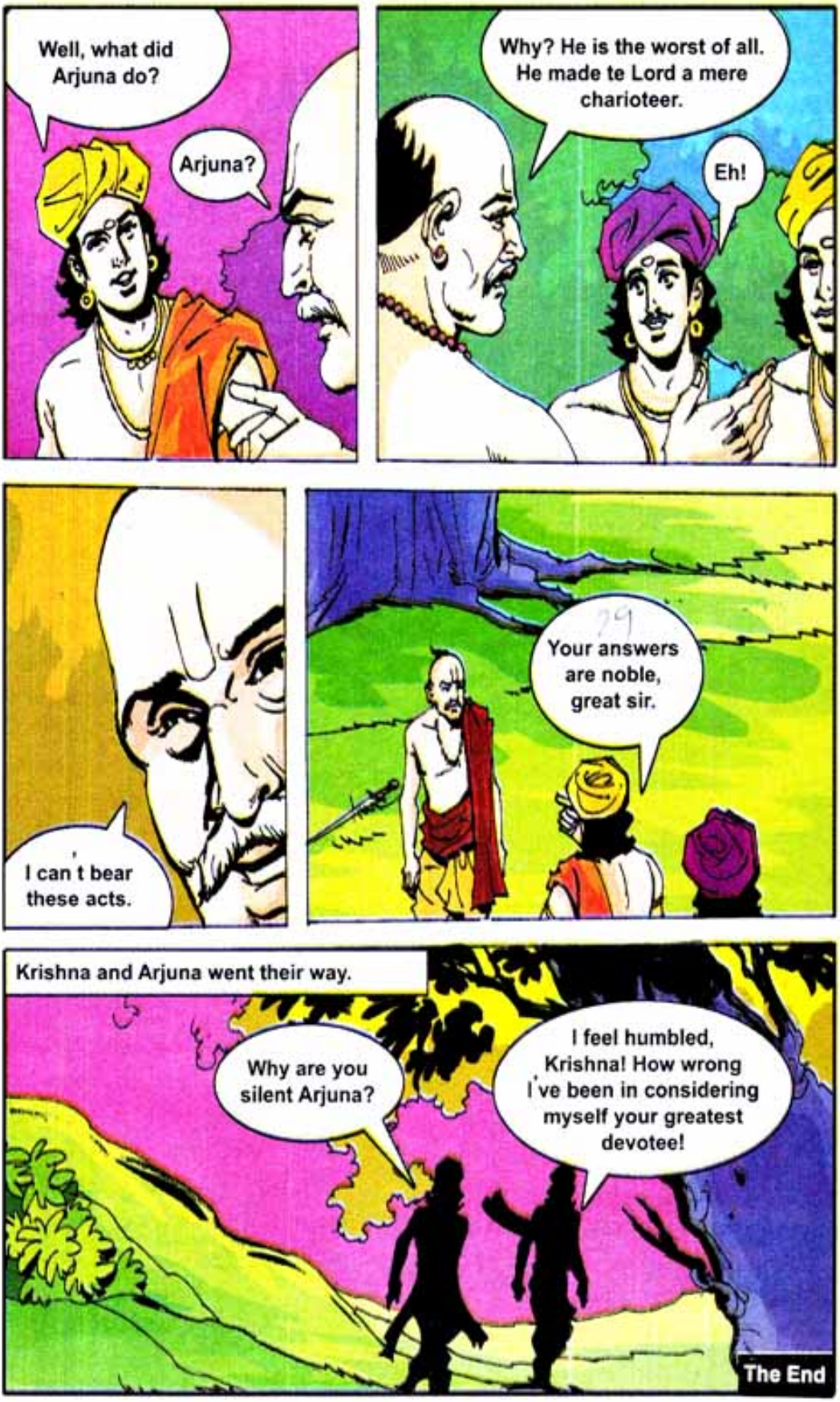







Who are they?
Narada, Prahlada, Panchali and Arjuna.
If I get a chance I ll slay them.
Great one, I can t believe it!
Why should a pure soul like you want to kill them?
Are n t all of them Krishna s devotees?
Devotees? Huh!


Narada keeps chanting 'Narayana, Narayana.
He does not give even a moments peace to my Lord.
And it was due to Prahlada that the Lord had to drink poison, jump down a mountain and pass through fire.
But what did Panchali do?
When Dushasana insulted her, she called for Krishna.
How quickly the Lord had to rush to her aid!
How much trouble my Krishna would have taken for that!


Well, what did Arjuna do?
Arjuna?
Why? He is the worst of all. He made te Lord a mere charioteer.
Eh!
I can't bear these acts.
Your answers are noble, great sir.
Krishna and Arjuna went their way.
Why are you silent Arjuna?
I feel humbled, Krishna! How wrong I've been in considering myself your greatest devotee!
The End

Stories from our Readers

When Harry

Like other ten-year-olds, Anushya was a Pottermaniac. While others just read and enjoyed the books, Anushya believed that the magical world really existed. Though her parents and friends told her that she was being 'fanciful' she was stubborn in her belief and always said, "Next year I will be 11-years-old and I will surely receive a letter from Hogwarts inviting me to join the school."

The year flew past and soon it was Anushya's birthday. She went to bed on the eve of her birthday hopeful of receiving that letter. The next morning, as Anushya was having breakfast, a flurry of wings was heard outside the dining room window. An owl was trying to get in, a yellow-coloured envelope attached to one of its legs. Anushya opened the window and gently removed the envelope from the owl's legs. Inside, was a letter inviting her to Hogwarts! Attached was the book list and the list of materials she would require, as well as a ticket for Hogwart's Express.

She was overjoyed. She told her friends and family the good news. None of them believed her of course. Some even sniggered and said, "She has faked the letter." Anushya ignored the whispers. She was too excited to care. All that mattered was the fact that she would be able to meet the wizarding folks and perhaps even the one and only Harry Potter and his friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger.

D-day arrived. Anushya's trunk was packed and she was wearing her brand new Hogwarts uniform. Her parents took her to the King's Cross station in London where she would board the Hogwarts Express on Platform 9¾. She got into the train with the other students and said goodbye to her parents.

Anushya soon made friends with one other girl in her compartment, who seemed a year or so older. They began talking and Madison, which was the name of the other girl, told Anushya all about Hogwarts, its teachers and everything else.

They reached Hogwarts Castle and assembled for dinner at the Great Hall. But before dinner, the students were sorted into their 'houses'. Anushya was sorted as a Griffindor. After dinner, the students went to their respective common rooms.

In the Griffindor Common Room, Anushya sat alone on a couch. Her only friend Madison,

met Anushya

was not in Griffindor. Sitting alone, thinking about her home, she heard someone call her name. When she looked up, she was amazed – for it was none other than Harry Potter who had called out to her.

Harry sat by her side and smiled while Anushya, dumbstruck at first, mumbled, "Harry! I can't believe I am talking to you."

"Well, I heard how much you had wanted to come to Hogwarts and so I thought I could come and have a chat with you."

"That was very nice of you Harry, but where are Ron and Hermione?"

"Ron is the Quidditch Pitch and Hermione is well... probably in the library."

"Oh, I would love to meet them too."

"Well... actually I wanted to tell you something."

"What's that Harry?"

"Well, you wanted to come to Hogwarts partly because you wanted to be a witch so that you could do magic and partly because you wanted to meet Ron, Hermoine and me.... Is that right?"

"Yes," she replied meekly.

"Well, you must understand something. When you say you want to do magic, you must realize that magic is everywhere in the world. The smile of a flower, the song of the wind, the working of your mind... are all magic. In short, you yourself are magic. Magic is something which comes from your heart. Do not seek magic outside. Seek it within."

Harry paused, then continued, "Everytime you do a good deed or make someone happy, the feeling you experience in your heart... That is real magic. You don't need Hogwarts to teach you magic. All you have to do is – realize your strength and play your strength."

Anushya listened quietly. She could not think of a reply. Harry spoke again, "My friends and I are within you. Whenever you feel lonely, just think of us and we will be with you through your life. Now go to bed and have a good night's sleep. All will be right tomorrow."

Anushya went to bed. Soon enough, she heard a bell ringing, and someone shouted, "Wake up, Anu! Or you will be late." Thinking that it was the school bell, Anushya opened her eyes and looked around. But something was not right. It was not Hogwarts. It looked like her own bedroom. She was bewildered. "How... what? How did I get back home?"

"Anushya," her mother called, "Stop gibbering and wake up. It's your birthday today and your friends will soon be here."

The truth then dawned – dreams were alright except when you wished they were true. What a wonderful beginning she had had to her birthday!

- M. Nivetha, Std. XI, Srinivasa Vidhyalaya Matric H. S. S. Udumalpet

"What did you write for the past tense of think?"

"I thought and thought and at last wrote think."

- Ananya Mishra, Std.VIII, Ruchika High School, Bhubaneshwar

A Legend in his Lifetime

Dhirajlal Hirachand Ambani was born on 28 December 1932 at Chorwad, Junagh in the state of Gujarat, into a Modh family. He was the third son of a school teacher. His father was Hirachand Govardhandas Ambani and his mother, Jamunaben Hirachand Ambani. He began his career at the age of seventeen, when he went to Aden, and worked for A. Berse & Co. Ltd, a French trading firm as a clerk at a gas station.

At the age of 25, he returned to India with the goal of establishing his own business. He got married to Kokilabhen and had two sons and two daughters. In 1958, he started his first company – Reliance Commercial Corporation with an initial investment of only Rs.15,000. Sensing a good opportunity in the textile business, Dhirubhai opened his first textile mill at Naroda near Ahmedabad, in the year 1966.

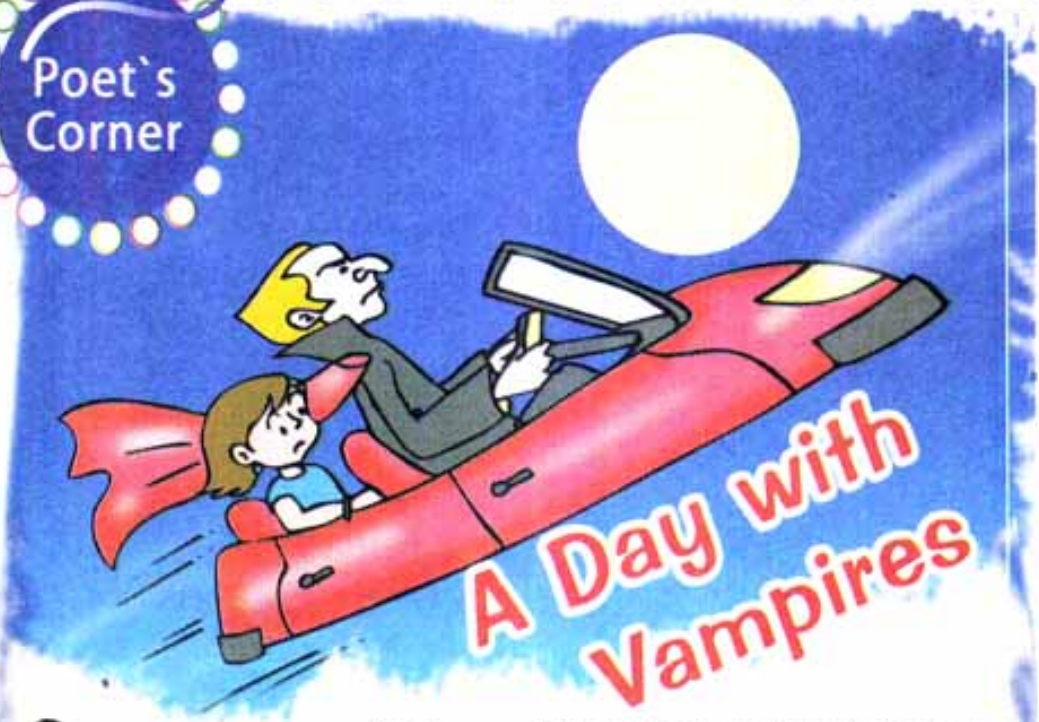
Today, the Reliance Group has several companies under its banner – and they deal with different products like petrochemicals, synthetic fibre, textiles, oil and gas, financial services, refineries, power, insurance, telecom and infocom.

Dhirubhai ambani has received many awards such as Man of the Century, Power 50 – The most powerful people in Asia, The Economic Times Award for Corporate Excellence for Lifetime Achievement etc.

He breathed his last on July 6, 2002. His funeral procession was not only attended by businessmen, politicians and celebrities, but also by thousands of ordinary people.

Source: The book 'Life and Times of Dhirajlal Hirachand Ambani.'

- Kausalya Narendran,
Std. IX,
Vasant Vihar High School and Junior College,
Thane.



A Day with Vampires

Once on a new moon night,
When darkness had
blocked the way of light,
I sat near the window,
And it was suddenly
Opened by my biggest foe;
In came the vampires,
And took me with them, in a
car without tires!
When I reached
their world, It was
pitch-dark night;
Though I am a brave girl,
I could have screamed in
fright.
But then I discovered, they
were good
And trust them I could.
They did no harm to me,
But served me bread and tea;
Then they reached me home
and waved a cheerful bye.
Now I ask you, who ever said,
A Vampire is a wicked guy?!

- Ananya Roy, Std.VIII,
St. Josephine's Convent H.S.
Kirkee.

The

I love the nights that fall in
December
Nights that are free of from
rain and thunder.
How I thank the god of
winter,
Who gave me this special
season of wonder
I don't care how I shiver
and sneeze,

My Red Umbrella !

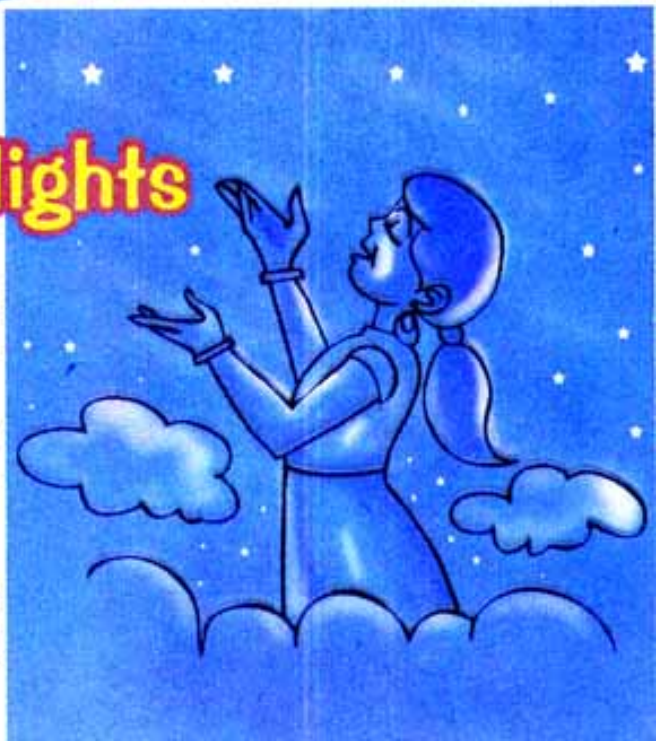
My umbrella, red in colour,
Used in rainy weather
Small and beautiful
Indeed very dutiful.

Clean and bright,
Not heavy, but light.
An old friend of mine
Yet new and fine.

It helps get away from rain,
And also relieves pain.
It seems to me human,
And friendly to every man.

- Auro Kumar Sahu, Std.IV,
St.Anne's School,
Bolangir, Orissa

December Nights



I do enjoy the chill and
breeze.
They may be dreary
nights for some
But, to me they are fun,
wholesome!

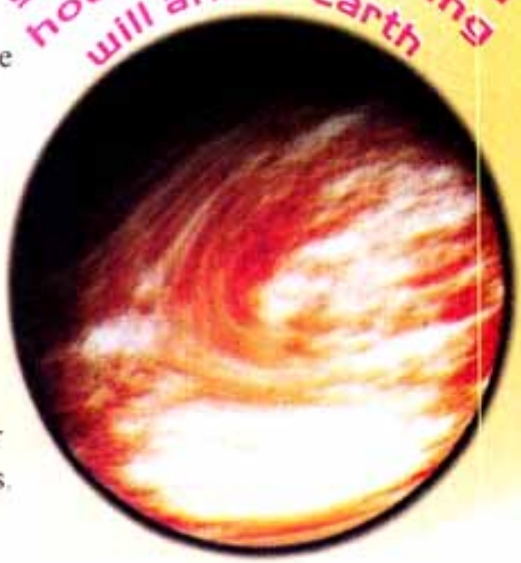
- Precia Elizabeth, Std.VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1,
Palakkad, Kerala

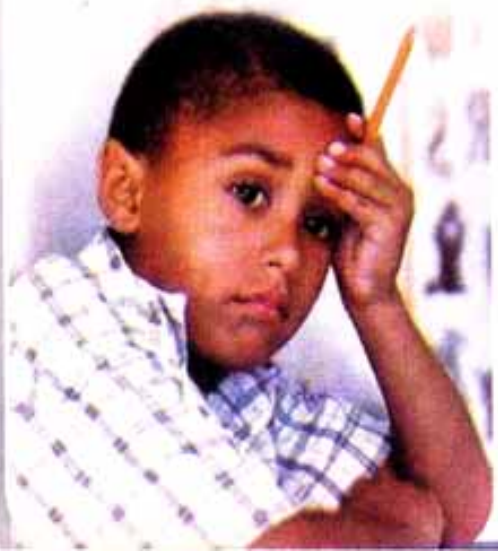
Hurricanes! Hurricanes are categorized by their wind speed and their power. Hurricane of the category 5 is the worst that people have experienced on Earth. Hurricane winds are greater than 249 kilometers per hour (135 knots or 155 miles per hour). And waters surge more than 36 meters (18 feet) above normal.

On Earth, winds get faster as we get higher in the atmosphere. That is to say, airplanes experience more wind than cars do. This is also why mountain tops experience more wind than flat lands. Scientists know it is the same on Venus and Mars.

But in other planets in our solar system, wind holds many surprises. Titan, Saturn's moon for example, has strongest winds near the outer edges of the atmosphere. It drops to almost nothing near Titan's surface.

Scientists are learning about wind and weather through out the solar system to understand how global warming will affect Earth





Another surprise was discovered in Jupiter. Here, winds increase as we get closer to the surface.

Now, what if the wind is created by the spinning planets? Scientists have measured that too. On most planets and moons with atmospheres (12 objects in our solar system have atmosphere), winds tend to blow in the direction of the spin. This leads

Rani Iyer

How is the WIND today?

us to think that spinning helps wind movement.

But, it is not always so. Take the case of Venus. Venus takes 243 Earth days to make a single rotation around the sun. But the wind zips around Venus about 60 times faster than the planet spins. As scientists attempt to understand their unexpected findings, the planetary weather keeps changing.

Hidden in most planets atmosphere are monstrous storms with whipping winds. Jupiter has a well-known Great Red Spot, where winds whip around at 340 miles per hour; Neptune's Great Dark Spot with winds zipping around up to 1500 miles per hour. The Saturn's Great White Spots are like a terrestrial thunderstorm, but imagine the lightning to be about 1,000 times more powerful. Recently, Cassini spacecraft took pictures of a raging storm from Saturn's south pole. This storm had an 'eye,' with a steep wall of clouds along its edges. Although it did look similar to a hurricane on Earth, it was many times stronger. It's the first hurricane-like storm ever observed on another planet. More recently, a storm was discovered on Uranus, named the Dark Spot.

Next time you feel the wind, take time to enjoy it!

Regular Feature

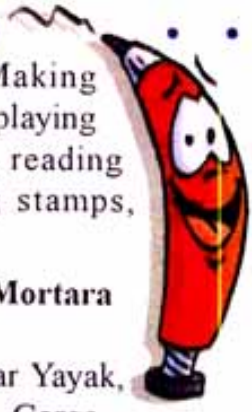
Name: **Monalisa**
Age : 11
Address : Qrt. No.B-402(PTS) NTPC/TSTPS, Kaniha, Angul Dist., Deepshikha P.O., Orissa - 759 147.
Hobbies : Reading story books, painting, drawing, collecting rocks.

Name: **S. Smrithi**
Age : 12
Address : No.12A, Kamakoti Nagar, 1st Main Road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087.
Hobbies : Arts and Craft, reading books (Roald Dahl's And Fiction), Surfing the net, making friends and riding my bicycle.

Name: **M.Swathi**
Age : 14
Address : No.30, Door No: F1, Subhiksha Flats, R.P.Road, Nehru Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600 044.
Hobbies : Making friends, listening to music, watching T.V, trying to communicate in English fluently, reading books etc.

Name: **Muhummed Shukry**
Age : 12
Address : No.14-16 Gampola Road, Nawalapitiya, Srilanka.
Hobbies : Reading books.

Name: **S. Sanjay**
Age : 11
Address : 23-A, Nehru Street, Teachers Colony, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.



Hobbies : Making friends, drawing, playing computer games, reading books, collecting stamps, coins.

Name: **B.Mori Mortara**
Age : 15
Address : Tassar Yayak, Apex Bank Tirali, Garga - Branch, E-Sector, Itanagar - 791 111, Papoon Pare, Arunachal Pradesh.
Hobbies : Listening to music, dancing, shopping

Name: **R. Niranjan Kumar**
Age : 13
Address : 983, Ganesh Vasantham GI, Korattur, Chennai - 600 080.
Hobbies : Reading comics, playing indoor games, drawing, collecting stamps and different types of stones.

Name: **Andrie Amak Bagang**
Age : 15
Address : Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Nivedita Vihar, Seijosa - 790 103, East Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
Hobbies : Photography, travelling, collecting watches, fashion designing, reading, dancing and singing.

Name: **Marnia Marbam Yana**
Age : 15
Address : Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Nivedita Vihar, Seijosa - 790 103, East Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
Hobbies : Composing poems, playing football, singing, collecting coins.

Name: **Vishal. M.K.**

Age : 13

Address : 6 B(1), 'Nandi Gardens' Avahalli, J.P.Nagar, IX Phase, Bengalooru - 560 062.

Hobbies : Playing football, cricket, guitar, watching cartoons on T.V and playing C.D., Video games.

Name: **Srilekha M.K.**

Age : 8

Address : 6 B(1), 'Nandi Gardens' Avahalli, J.P.Nagar, IX Phase, Bengalooru - 560 062.

Hobbies : Playing keyboard, Carnatic music and watching T.V

Name: **Manoj Kumar.S**

Age : 12

Address : No.93, Paschim County Medarahalli, Abbigere Panchayat, Bengalooru - 560 090.

Hobbies : Reading books, playing cricket, riding cycle, watching cartoon.

Name: **S.Varsha**

Age : 7

Address : Old No.56, New No. 16, ' Villa Sai', Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090.

Hobbies : Reading books, singing, playing, table tennis, watching TV, painting.

Name: **Srushti Hebbar**

Age : 11

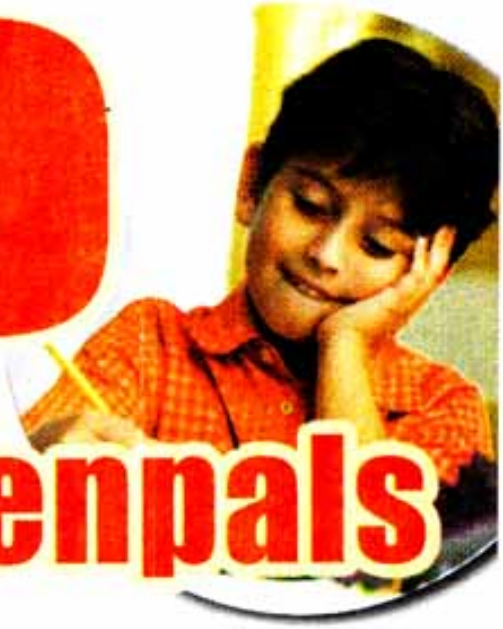
Address : 51, 'Shalika' 2nd Main Road, 11th Block Nagarbhavi 2nd stage, Bengalooru - 560 072.

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and stories, listening to latest music, collecting coins, watching T.V, chatting, singing and reading novels.

Name: **Geetanjali Raman**

Age : 11

Penpals



Address : 91/1, Mall Road, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun - 248 003.

Hobbies : Reading novels and comics, playing with my dog, singing and dancing, listening to music, painting and having pen pals!

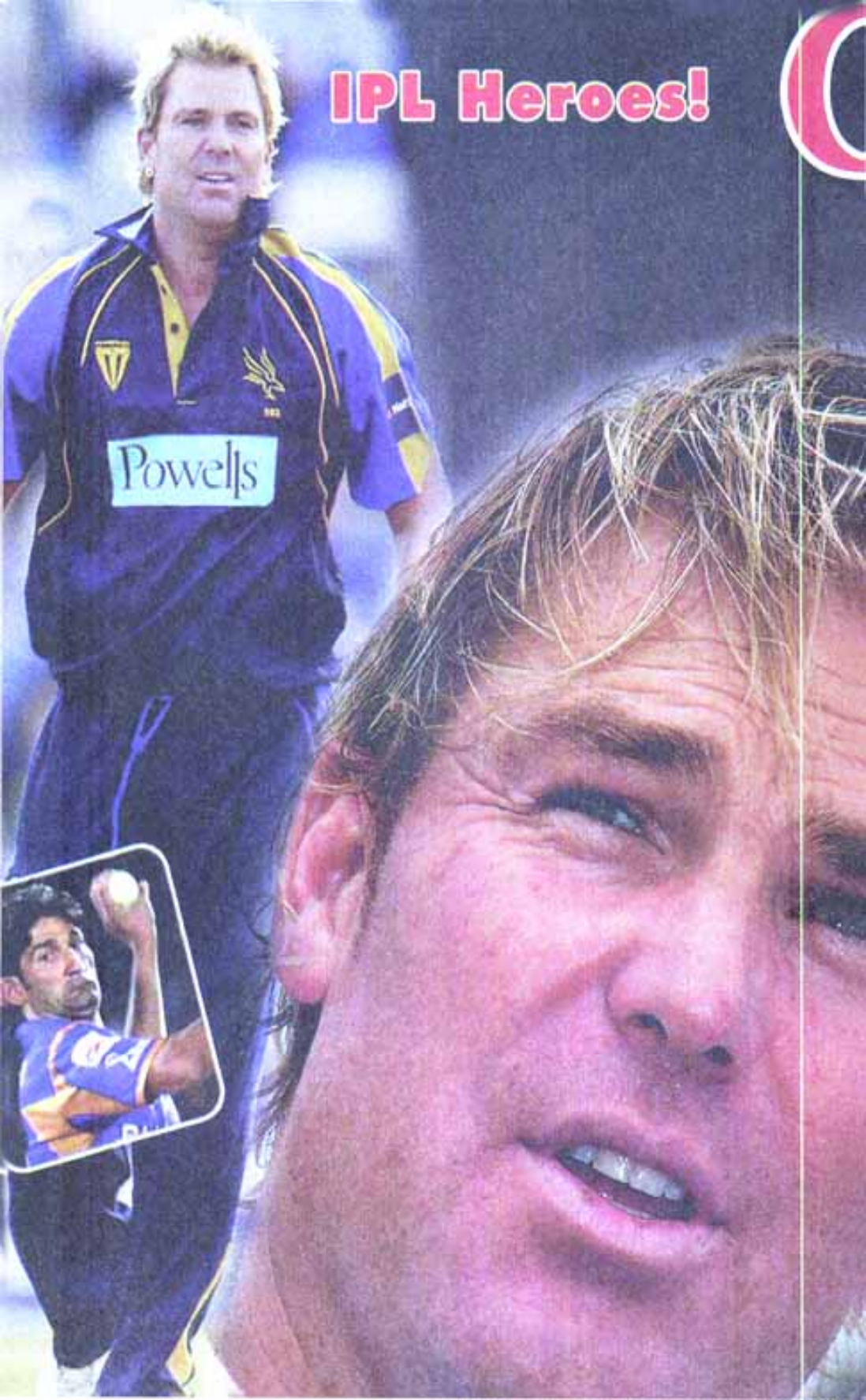
Name: **Adivignesh Anand**

Age : 8

Address : Bhaveshwar Vijay, Flat No.17, Plot No.91, Opp: Andhra School, Wadala, Mumbai - 400 031. E.mail: ad_1998@sify.com/adroan@rediffmail.com

Hobbies : Drawing, cricket, reading, swimming, computer games, surfing the net, watching Harry Potter movies, cartoon network, Pogo.

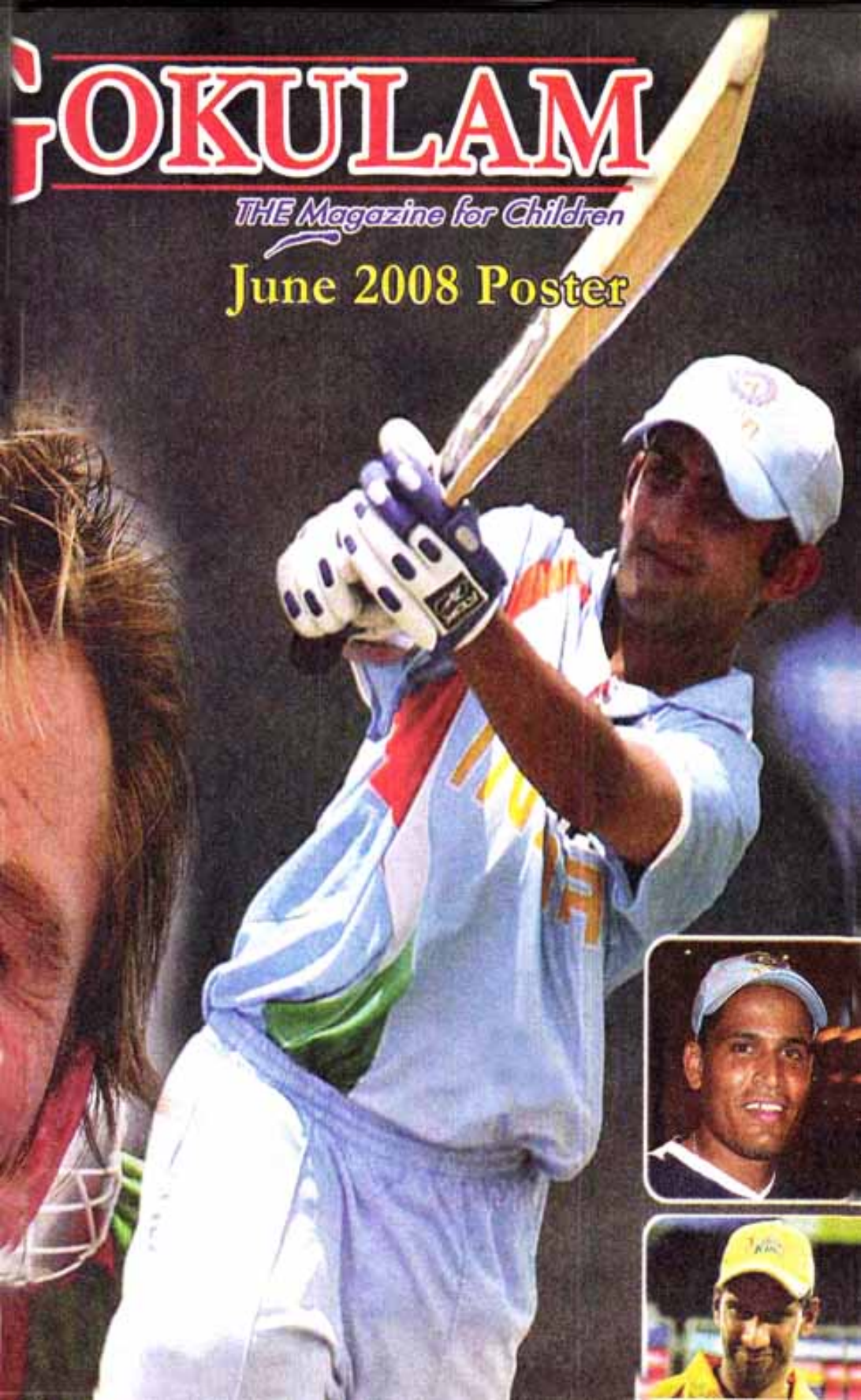
IPL Heroes!



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

June 2008 Poster



Experience

A Visit to INS Sharabh

4th November 2007 will always be a red letter day in my memories. It was on this day when a group of selected students from our school were given an opportunity to visit the naval ship INS SHARABH. The team included me and seven other members and a teacher. We were picked up by the naval school bus. We reached the wharf at 10.30 am.

There on the wharf stood INS SHARABH. We boarded the ship and were soon surrounded by a number of Naval officers. The officers explained and showed us various artilleries and told us about submarines, rifles etc. We also had a photo-session with all the Naval officers on board. On returning from the wharf I felt proud of these officers and their job to defend our country. I salute them!

- Diksha Das,
Std.VII,
Carmel Senior Secondary School, Port Blair.

Surprise!

One day my brother and I were at home. My parents had gone out for a walk. When my parents came back, I was busy with my homework. Suddenly dad gave me a book and guess what? It was 'GOKULAM'! I was so excited. It had directly been posted from the Gokulam office!

'I am not a subscriber of GOKULAM. I buy it from a local newspaper vendor. How did it arrive by post then? As this thought rushed past my mind I flipped through the pages. To my surprise my viewpoint had been selected. I was so happy. Later, I also got the prize money for my contribution. It was the first time I had earned my own money! Thankyou 'GOKULAM' for making my day.

- Darshana N.Dawda,
Std.X, Shree Vailankanni English School, Gaondevi, Dombivli (West)

Timely Help!

I had been to the airport to see my cousin off to Dubai. At around 8 p.m. we were walking back towards the road (the autos inside the airport charge exorbitant rates) when a gentleman offered us a lift and dropped us off at the nearest convenient point.

We felt extremely thankful to this gentleman as we were very tired after the hectic packing and the travelling all day long. It was timely help indeed! I also realised that helping others could give a lot of happiness and good feeling, for thats how I felt.

- Ajit Rengaswamy, Std.IX,
M.CT.M.Chidambaram
Chettyar Matric.Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai

When Mom took Ill...

Once when my mother was ill, my sister and I decided to help her. We did not let mother enter the kitchen, and we cooked everything for the day. Usually, my mother cleans the kitchen and then goes to bed. That night, my sister cleaned one side of the kitchen, while I cleaned the other.

The next morning, when I woke up, an aroma filled my room. It was my favourite sambar... I sprang out of my bed and ran into the kitchen and found my mother cooking. I asked her how she felt. She said she was feeling as fit as a fiddle, and that it was only because of the help my sister and I had rendered.

The entire family was very happy and really proud of us.

- Apoorva Sudhakar, Std. VI,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
TPRA

Unforgettable

The Farewell Party

I am E.Santosh Vamsi. I wrote my tenth standard board exams recently. Our school had a farewell party for all the students of class X.

The long- 'unawaited' day came at last! Though we were excited at the prospect of entering Junior college, we were very sad and tearful that we friends would be separated.

It was 16th February 2008. Everything was ready for our farewell party.

• At the party...

All the tenth standard students were at the assembly hall at ten o' clock in the morning.

First we had a small prayer and the revered 'Father' blessed our hall-tickets. Then started the show which included many dances and comedy skits and songs and what not!

We were served hot samosas and cool.... drinks in the middle of the show. Then there was a fashion show held, in which all the students of Std.X had to parade on the stage!

Of them, three were chosen the best and they were asked the question, 'what is beauty?' Everyone expressed their views. Out of them one was chosen as 'Miss. St.Joseph!'. Prizes for the best performers were given away. The programme concluded with a farewell song.

Then, at 1.00 p.m., we had our lunch along with all the teachers and principal. The school had arranged for this lunch specially!

Certainly, school days are the most memorable days. The farewell day is one among them.

- E. Santosh Vamsi,
Std.X,
St.Joseph's Girls High School,
Vishakapatnam

Relax!

Ramu: If a thief comes to your house, with a knife, what will you do?

Somu: I will ask him to cut all the vegetables!

- G.Shamini, Std.VI, S.R.D.F.V.V.School, Chennai

"Why are you fighting with Anil?"

"Because he left his paper blank."

"But why do you object to that?"

"Because I too left my answer sheet blank and you might think that we both have copied."

- D. Saranya, Std.V, Saradha M.S, Gingee

Laugh Away!

"Drive a bit slowly."

"But sir, you said you wanted to reach the hospital soon."

"Yes of course, but not as a patient!"

"What is the reason for your hair fall?"

"Worry."

"Worry about what?"

"What else? Hair fall."

- Ananya Mishra, Std.VIII, Ruchika High School, Bhubaneshwar

Hello, Doctor!

● **D.Deepika,**
Chennai - 80

? What is acne?

! Acne is a skin condition characterized by whiteheads, blackheads and inflamed red pimples. Acne occurs when tiny holes on the surface of the skin called pores become clogged. Each pore is an opening to a canal called a follicle, which contains a hair and an oil gland. Normally, the oil glands help keep the skin lubricated and help remove old skin cells. When glands produce too much oil, the pores can become blocked, accumulating dirt, debris, and bacteria. The blockage is called a plug or comedone. The top of the plug may be white (whitehead) or dark (blackhead). If it ruptures, the material inside, including oil and bacteria, can spread to the surrounding area and cause an inflammatory reaction. If the inflammation is deep in your skin, the pimples may enlarge to form firm, painful cysts. Acne commonly appears on the face and shoulders, but may also occur on the trunk, arms, legs and buttocks. Acne is most common in teenagers. It is probably caused by hormonal changes that stimulate oil production.

● **R.Anu Priyanka,**
Tuticorin-2

? I am 170 cms in height and 40 kg in weight. All my friends say that I am tall but thin. How can I overcome this problem? How can I become fat?

! Do you want to gain 'fat' or gain weight? It is

What are

not healthy to gain 'fat'. If you want to gain weight, eat a healthy diet and eat in frequent intervals. Increase your caloric intake and also increase your protein rich foods like milk, egg, meat, sprouts in your everyday meal. Exercise daily.

Hiccups!

● **Shriyanka Shetty, Mangalore**

? Why do we have hiccups?

! Hiccups are funny noises emerging from the throat. But they are actually caused by the diaphragm. This is a dome-shaped muscle at the bottom of your chest, and the problems for all hiccups start here. The diaphragm almost always works perfectly. When you inhale, it pulls down to help pull air into the lungs. When you exhale, it pushes up to help push air out of the lungs. But sometimes the diaphragm becomes irritated. When this happens, it pulls down in a jerky way, which makes you suck air into your throat suddenly. When the air rushing in hits your voice box (larynx), you're left with a big hiccup!

Some of the things that irritate the diaphragm are eating too quickly or hurriedly, an irritation in the stomach or the throat, or a feeling of nervousness or excitement. Almost all cases of hiccups last only a few minutes. Some cases of hiccups could last for days or weeks, but this is very unusual, and its usually a sign of another medical problem. Holding your breath and counting to 10 is one way to get rid of hiccups. Drinking a glass of cool water could also help. A pinch of sugar placed under your tongue might work too.

● **Hariharan, Chennai - 80**

? Some people say that having a cup of coffee will cure headaches. Is this true, doctor?

! Yes, Hariharan. Usually headache occurs when the blood vessels in the head are getting dilated. Coffee may provide some relief in alleviating the headache and decreasing the duration of pain. Caffeine is a chemical ingredient found in coffee. It acts as a vasoconstrictor and eases the dilated blood vessels.

Stories from our Readers

Finny

"Ajay, do you really want to put Finny fish alone in this huge fish tank?" - His mom had asked him several times.

Ajay was so intent on the Australia - India ODI that he didn't hear his mother's question.

The Indians lost miserably to the Aussies - 77 - all out. Unbelievable! Feeling very sad, Ajay walked up to the fish tank. His face lit up suddenly.

"Finny, Finny! Mom, how come Finny is all alone in our brand new fish tank?"

"Well. I did ask you," said Ajay's Mom.

Finny should have someone to play with... Finny I'll go get you a partner. Ajay ran to get a fish partner for Finny.

Meanwhile, Crappy, the crow, perched on the neem tree bough, decided to devour Finny. He made his great "Dive 20" which was his speciality and envy of other crows!

Finny was out of breath as Crappy flew higher. He lost control, almost blacking out. Within a few minutes, he found himself in water again and life sprang into him.

Crappy had dropped Finny into a pond!

"Oouch!" Finny felt himself caught in a net, and being very soon pushed into a bottle! A little boy was peering at him

Finny thought he was trapped and longed to be in his fish tank, with his friend Ajay.

When Ajay came home with another fish whom he had named Freddy, he was shocked to find Finny gone.

Freddy was placed in the tank. A few days passed.

"A bottle! Just Rs 10! Please...Please..." A small boy selling fish attracted Ajay's attention as he was cycling down to his keyboard class. Ajay stopped and to his joy found Finny in one of the bottles.

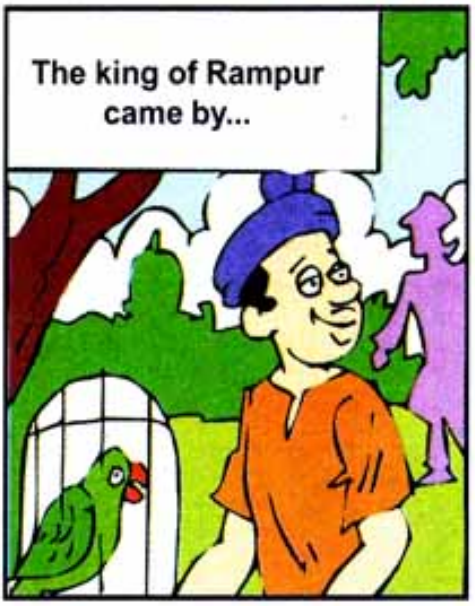
Ajay bought the fish from the boy and to Finny's delight slipped him into his fish tank.

Freddy fish was happy to have Finny for company. Ajay placed his fish-tank out of reach of Crappy Crow and Finny and Freddy lived happily everafter.

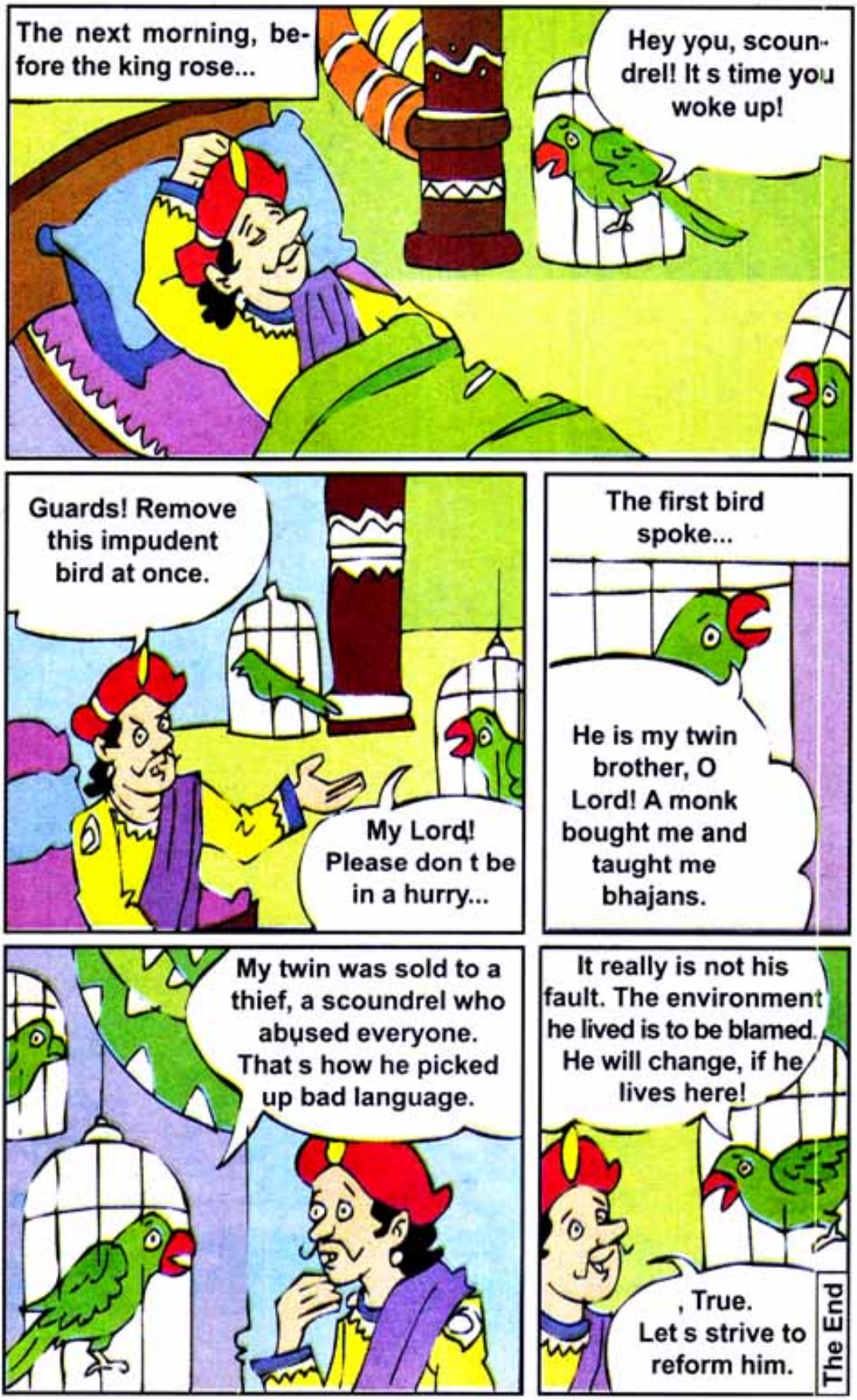
- Ajay Ashok, Std. IX,
St.Michael's Academy,
Chennai

A PAIR OF PARROTS!

Story:
Gayathri
Std.VII,
D.A.V.
BHEL Township,
Ranipet

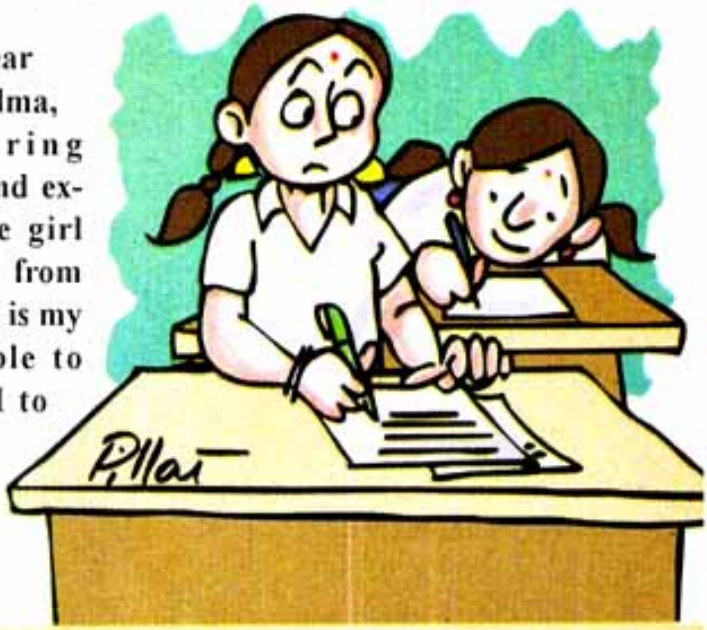


Buy both and take them with you and you ll find out.
The king bought both birds.
Keep the five hundred rupee bird cage beside my bed.
The next morning, as the king rose...
Ram, Ram, Sita Ram... Obeisance to His Lordship!
Ah! What a lovely voice the bird has...!
That night the king issued orders
Place the five rupee bird cage here tonight...
Yes my Lord! I shall do as you say...


The next morning, before the king rose...
Hey you, scoundrel! It s time you woke up!
Guards! Remove this impudent bird at once.
My Lord! Please don t be in a hurry...
The first bird spoke...
He is my twin brother, O Lord! A monk bought me and taught me bhajans.
My twin was sold to a thief, a scoundrel who abused everyone. That s how he picked up bad language.
It really is not his fault. The environment he lived is to be blamed. He will change, if he lives here!
, True. Let s strive to reform him.
The End

Grandmaworm

How to Handle a Copy Cat?



Dear Grandma, During tests and exams the girl sitting next to me, copies from my answer papers. As she is my close friend, I am unable to prevent her. What am I to do?

- Yazhini Anbumani, Erode.

Dear Yazhini,

If she is really your close friend, you will tell her, for her own good that copying is bad and that you will not permit it hereafter. A true friend will always correct a misdeed and not become party to it. Your friend should know that schooling is for acquiring knowledge and not for just passing exams. Remember, if caught in the act, both of you are likely to be punished and not just your friend.

• • •

I'm in standard X and I find mistakes in our geography text book. I need clarification. Whom should I approach?

- Ayesha Zulaisha, Madurai

Dear Ayesha,

It is extremely unlikely that there are mistakes in your text book. It is possible that you have misunderstood the sentence or passage. The easiest way out is for you to approach your geography teacher and ask for a clarification. You must do this without appearing to be too smart! I'm sure your teacher will take kindly to you and explain to your satisfaction. If your teacher also feels that these are mistakes in the text book, he or she will take up the matter with higher authorities

and put you at ease. Your teacher will also let you know how to handle a question that might be asked with reference to the wrong sentence or passage in the text book.

• • •

A very close friend of mine is soon shifting to a different place and school. I am depressed. Please help.

- Revathi, Chennai

Dear Revathi,

Though you will miss her physical nearness, in these days of E-mails and cellphones it is not difficult to keep in touch, even if you are far away from each other. As a matter of fact, your friendship can flourish all the more because of such communication facilities. When you realise this and act upon it, your depression will vanish. Pretty soon you will acquire new friends too, living nearby.

I would like to participate in the competitions conducted in our school. But I am nervous. How can I overcome this?

- A.Varshini, Chennai

Dear Varshini,

You will be nervous only if you are ill prepared. Don't try to enter all the competitions. Choose one in which you are very much interested and practise to perfection. Take the advice of elders who are in the line and ask them to review your performance. Correct and improve yourself. Very soon you will overcome your nervousness and participate in the competition with self confidence. Never forget that the competitive spirit is more important than winning a trophy or prize.

I go to school after taking a full glass of Complan. But my parents scold me for skipping breakfast. Should I eat something even if I don't feel hungry?

- G. Siddarth, Vellore

Dear Siddarth,

You cannot have a hearty breakfast soon after taking a full glass of Complan. Timing is important. Have milk or Complan early in the morning, say 6 a.m. Go about your daily routine for an hour or two. Sit down for breakfast at around 8 or 8.30 a.m. You will relish it.

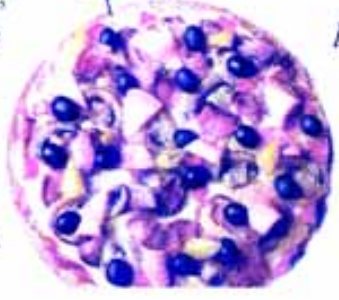
Points to remember: 1. Adjust your timing to suit school hours. 2. Breakfast is considered to be more important than lunch or dinner and should be sumptuous. Dinner should not be heavy. 3) Complan is a supplementary food. It is not a must. Plain milk will do for a normal healthy boy. Follow my advice for a week or two. If you are still averse to breakfast consult your family doctor.

Love Grandmaworm

Fun Facts About Pizza!

- In one minute, 21,000 pizzas are baked!
- October is National Pizza Month in the United States!
- In U.S alone, 3 billion pizzas are sold every year.
- Americans are eating 350 slices of pizzas every second, i.e. 2,100 every minute.

Source: Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts That Happen Every 60 seconds



- Darshana N.Dawda, Shree Vailankanni, English School, Dombivli (W)

Poem

Perfect Summer

Summer vacation,
End of all tension,
No examination
No more confusion!

Full of fun,
I'm free to run,
No books, nothing,
I can do anything.

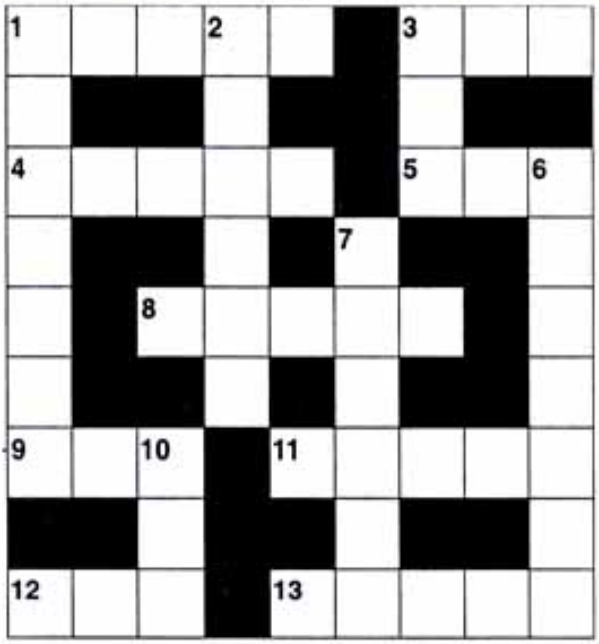
Come let's play,
Together all the way,
In the bright warm sunlight,
And through the starry
night.

A peaceful night's sleep,
No alarms to beep,
Filled with funfare
As gaiety fills the air.

Famous Five thrill through
my dreams,
Potter sends the 'Patronous'
beam
Gasping ghosts do shrilly
scream
To end, they don't even
seem.

Days gets better,
School becomes bitter,
Holidays are the best,
Not being put to test!

- S.Varsha, Std. VIII,
R.N.Podar School, Mumbai



Activity

Gullu's Crossword - 11

Clues

Across:

1. Plump (5)
3. One should study this to become an advocate or judge (3)
4. A thorn or pin does this (5)
5. A policeman inside helicopter (3)
8. You should not be "..... wise and pound foolish" (5)
9. The Almighty (3)
11. The most used word over telephone, perhaps (5)
12. An abbreviated day means to marry (3)
13. By hook or ..... (5)

Down:

1. A tender tree (7)
2. Brothers of mother or father (6)
3. A kind of wood polish (3)
6. Our national bird (7)
7. This consists of 365 or 366 days (2,4)
10. If mother is mom, father is .... (3)

- G.S.S

Gullu's Crossword - 9

1 F	I	2 L	A	M	E	3 N	T	■
I	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	4 D
5 N	E	T	■	6 D	A	C	C	A
D	■	■	■	U	■	E	■	R
L	■	7 H	Y	P	E	R	■	K
A	■	A	■	E	■	■	■	N
8 N	E	V	E	R	■	9 P	I	E
D	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	S
■	10 A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 9 (April 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 10 will be published in the July 2008 issue.

1. S. Harini, Std.X, Sunbeam M.H.S.S, Vellore.

2. Anubhab Sen, Std.VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya - 2, Kalpakkam.

3. Soubhagya S.Prabhu, Std.VIII, St.Mary Badani High School, Kayankulam (Kerala).

4. R. Aditya, Std.VI, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy -17.

5. Nandini Neelakantan, Std.X, P.E.S. Central School, Navi Mumbai.

Gullu's Crossword - 11 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

..... Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 20.6.2008

Essay

Books

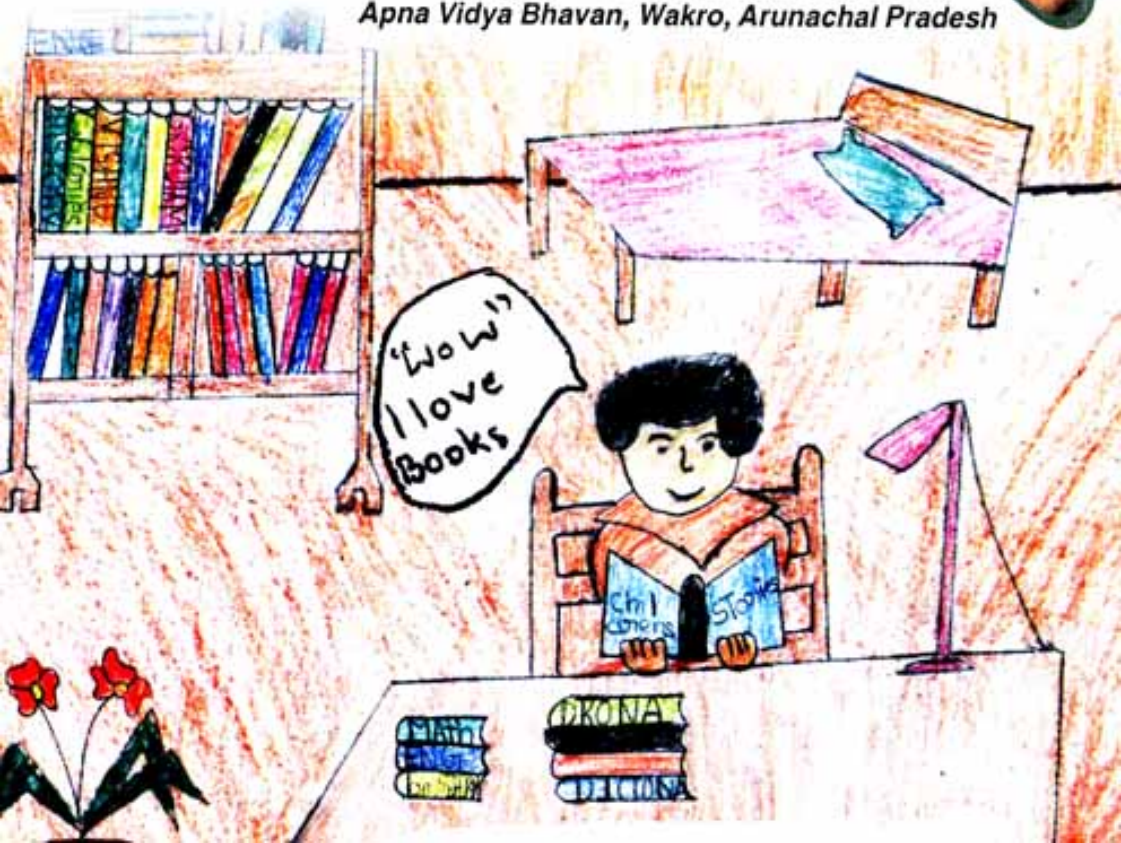
Books are man's best friend, I was told often. But I never learnt the importance of reading a book until the cable connection of my T.V. was cut one day. That day I took to books and discovered a whole new world. Today, all I need is just books. They give me immense pleasure.

Recently, I read two books - 'Dr Jekyl and Mr.Hyde' and 'Treasure Island' - both written by R.L.Stevenson. I indeed enjoyed them. They were wonderful!

My favourite books include 'A Tale of Two Cities' wherein Charles Dickens narrates the story of the French Revolution. 'Black Beauty' too, is a good book. It is the autobiography of a black horse.

Dracula by Bram Stoker is fantastic! In this story, Jonathan Harker is sent to

Drawing by: ***Luckyso Rangmang, Std.IV, Apna Vidya Bhavan, Wakro, Arunachal Pradesh***



see a client of his company - Dracula - who is actually a vampire! The story tells about how Jonathan and others track and destroy Dracula.

Jane Eyre is a book about an orphan who after an unhappy childhood finds happiness with the man she loves - just like Cinderella.

There are many other books like Robinhood, The Coral Island, Oliver Twist etc, which are much more realistic than Potter stories. If you've not read my favourites, try reading them now; you are sure to enjoy them!

- Meenakshi, Std.X,
J.B.Khot High School, Mumbai

Which moon is sweet?

Jamoon!

Why is 6 afraid of 7?

Because 7 8(ate) 9!

Which is the grandest stick?

Majestic!

- Vivek Vijayan, Std.IX,
St.John's High School, Bengalooru

What is the difference between

a locomotive engineer and a teacher?

- R. Prasanna, Karur

One minds the Train and the other trains the mind!

Let`s cook up

Minty Drink

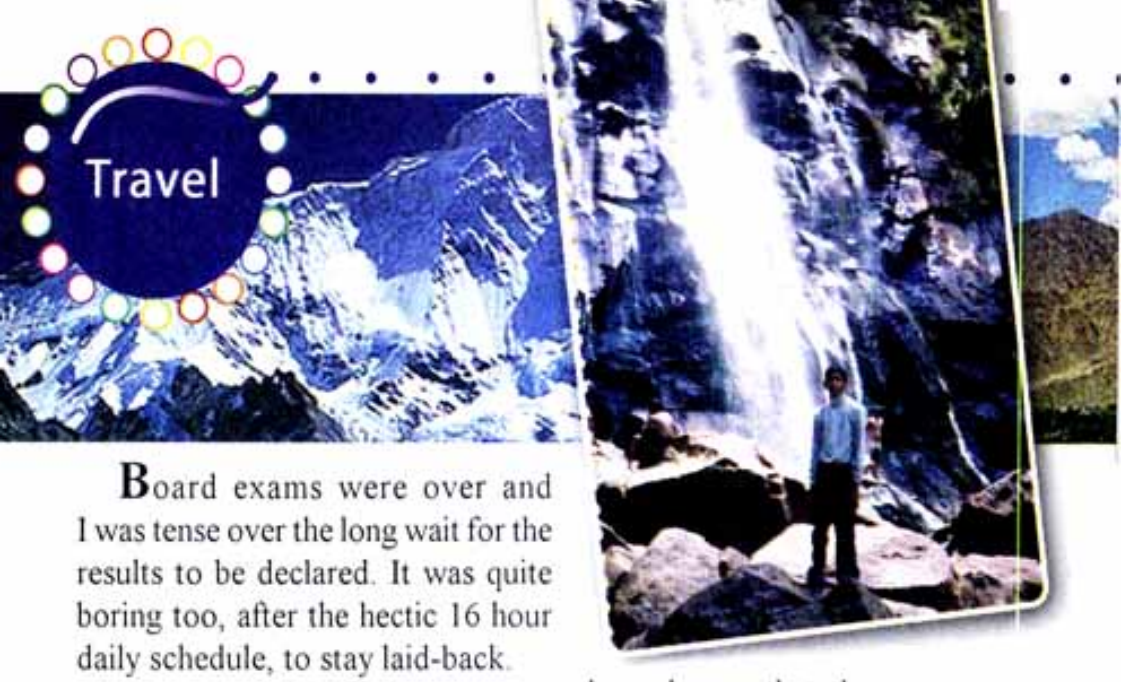
You Need:

10 sprigs of mint
2 gms ginger, sliced
30 ml lime juice
30 ml sugar syrup
40 to 50 ml sprite
crushed ice

Method:

Beat the mint and ginger in a blender with the crushed ice. Add the sugar syrup and the lime juice. Remove when the ice is totally crushed and becomes soft. Pour it into a tall glass and top it up with sprite. Garnish with a slice of lemon.

- J.Vishnu, Std.X,
Shikshakendra M.H.S.S., Vellore



Panchmari: Crags,

Board exams were over and I was tense over the long wait for the results to be declared. It was quite boring too, after the hectic 16 hour daily schedule, to stay laid-back.

My parents decided to plan a trip to Panchmari - a hill station in Madhya Pradesh. It is at about 3555 feet above mean sea-level.

We decided to hire a taxi and after carefully packing the requisite things we set off.

Amrapali was the name of the hotel we checked into. After a good night's rest we left in the morning to look at the Jatashankar caves. The interior walls of the cave are of coal! Images of Siva and Parvathi could be seen on them. It was spell-binding to wind our way through the craggy cave ways. After exploring them for an hour we went to the Pandava Caves.

Actually, Panchmari derives its name from the Pandava caves. The legend goes that these caves once provided sanctuary to the Pandava brothers (Mahabarat). These caves are being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. They are very beautiful from the exterior and in the interior too.

Just in front of the Pandava Caves is the Pandava Udyan - or garden - which is a treat to view from an elevation.

Handi Khan in Panchmari is a very impressive ravine in the hill range. It has a rather unfortunate connection - Handi, an English officer is said to have committed suicide by jumping into the 300 feet deep ravine! It made us giddy to stand at Handi and recall this!

We then broke for lunch and after eating to our heart's fill, we

Caves, Cascades!

headed for the Mahadeo caves. The Mahadeo Hills and caves are a shrine of Lord Siva. An impressive Shivalinga adorns the caves.

From here we went to Gupt Mahadeo, a narrow tip of the valley, where a rocky cliff overhangs a stream of gurgling water. It was a very pleasant scene.

The evening found us at Rajendrapini Point, from where we got a glorious view of fiercely flaming orange sunset.

The next moning was inviting and spent on a two k.m trek up a hilly path, to reach the Bee falls. Water rushed down from a height of about 150 feet, spraying cool dampness on our faces. We scrambled into the cascade and found the cool water stinging our faces. No wonder it is called Bee falls!

This whole trip to Panchmari was memorable as a journey towards excitement; a tryst with Nature and lungsfull of fresh and fragrant air of the mountains.

- Mohit Kumar, Std.X,
St.Mary's S.S.S, Banda, U.P.

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection. We shall be calling for this collection shortly!

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!

Creative Corner

Finger Puppet

You will need:

Pieces of wood, buttons, feathers, cardboard, fevicol, tape, paint, sketch pens

Method:

Draw a picture of an animal or a person on a cardboard. Instead of legs draw two circles. Cut out the puppet and insides of the circles. Decorate puppet suitably. Put your index and middle fingers through the holes, to make your puppet move, turn or dance!

- P.Seethalakshmi, Std.IX, Boston School, Chennai

Over time, make many puppets and hold a puppet-show!

View Point

Should We Get

Students are the future rulers of a country and as we grow older, we surely need to take part in political activities, to get experience and learn how to rule better.

- A.Avinash, aged 15, Kendriya Vidyalaya 1, Chennai

Young people engaging themselves in political activity may provide a wide range of opinions and decisions for the country. But involving students may not be a good idea. Students should concentrate on studies and sports.

- Arvind Kaushik, aged 15, Ramjas School, New Delhi.

I think students who are above 18 years of age should be involved in politics. A country run by young people will be an epitome of energy and efficiency. Traditionally, people get into politics only after they are old. By the time they get to a responsible post, they lose enthusiasm and energy. So I think a young India is a better India.

- Aparna Lakshmi Dorai, aged 16, Vani Vidhyalaya Jr. College, Thane.

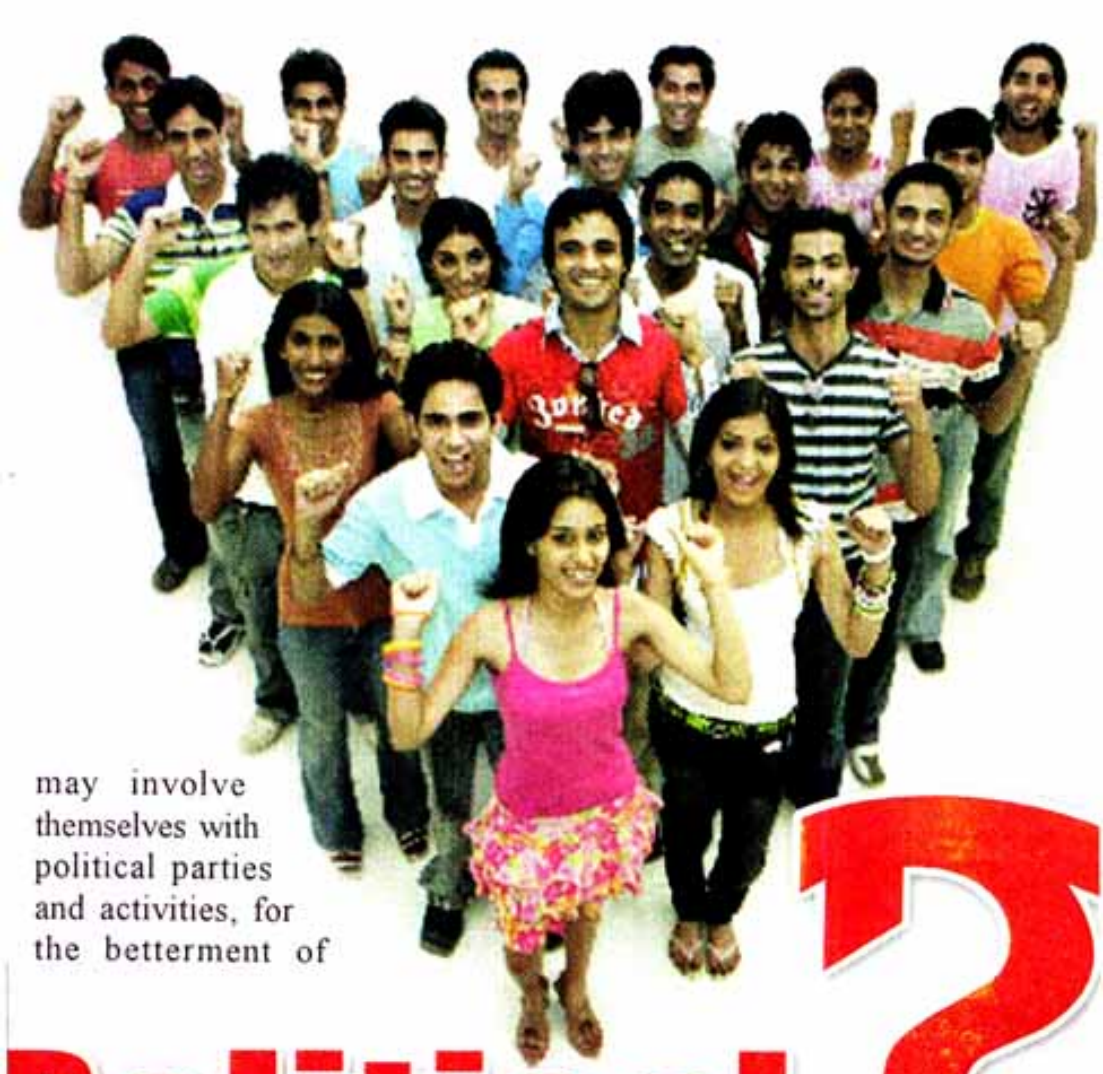
The school-going age is the age to study and learn by working really hard. Why does one have to waste one's future potential by engaging in power-play at such a tender age? Politics should be left to older people. We can wait for our turn to come.

- Sneha Antony, aged 14, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dhrangadhra, Gujarat.

I don't think students should engage in politics at this age. They can participate in politics later if they are interested. As students, it's a time to study - not argue, stress our minds or worry about unnecessary things in vain. Fighting for our country and for what is right is a good thing but not at this age.

- Shakuntala Madar, aged 14, Deepvihar High School, Goa.

The quality of present day politics is akin to a murky cesspool, I feel students should desist from engaging in political parties and activities for the present. Students should remain focussed on their academic pursuits, nurture discipline and develop positive attributes during their formative years. After having ingrained these values, they



may involve themselves with political parties and activities, for the betterment of

Political ?

public at large.

- Sadhana Venkitakrishnan, Std IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bangalore 560047.

The young generation in our country is well aware of the political system in India. Students, through their views and actions could change the political structure in India. Politics would be a great platform for students to participate and express their feelings and take necessary action against illegal activities. I think students must engage with political parties and activities. After all, India depends upon its young generation.

- Fathima Affra Khan, aged 17, Touheed P.U. College, Udipi, Karnataka.

Student-life sets the foundation for the future of a child. Any diversion from the main goal is not acceptable

Do not get tempted and lose your future!

in the interest of tomorrow's citizens.

- Astra Chowdary, aged 14, Bhashyam Public School, Vizianagaram.

I feel students in school should not be part of politics. I have seen students holding flags of political parties and in doing this, they may engage in undesirable activities and their future could be ruined. Today, politicians 'earn' money through bribes and the next generation may imbibe this attitude. This is also a kind of child labour, involving young students in such activities. I say to students, 'do not get tempted and lose your future.'

- Archana R., aged 13, T.V.S.M.H.S.School, Madurai-625 016

Students are not mature enough to enter politics. They must first concentrate on their studies. Later on, if they want to, they can enter politics and serve people through dedication and hard work.

- Padmapriya S. Iyer, aged 11, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pune.

Students should not enter politics. They can earn name, fame and money through it but cannot concentrate on studies.

- Ajit Rengaswamy, aged 14, M.CT.M. School, Chennai.

Only if students engage in politics can they reshape this country. They are the hope of India.

- K. Vamsi, aged 16, Hussain Memorial Mat. H.S.S, Chennai.

Question for this month

Is it good to have religious prayers in a school?

Send us your views by 20.6.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@ kalkiweekly.com)

From Readers

Fact File

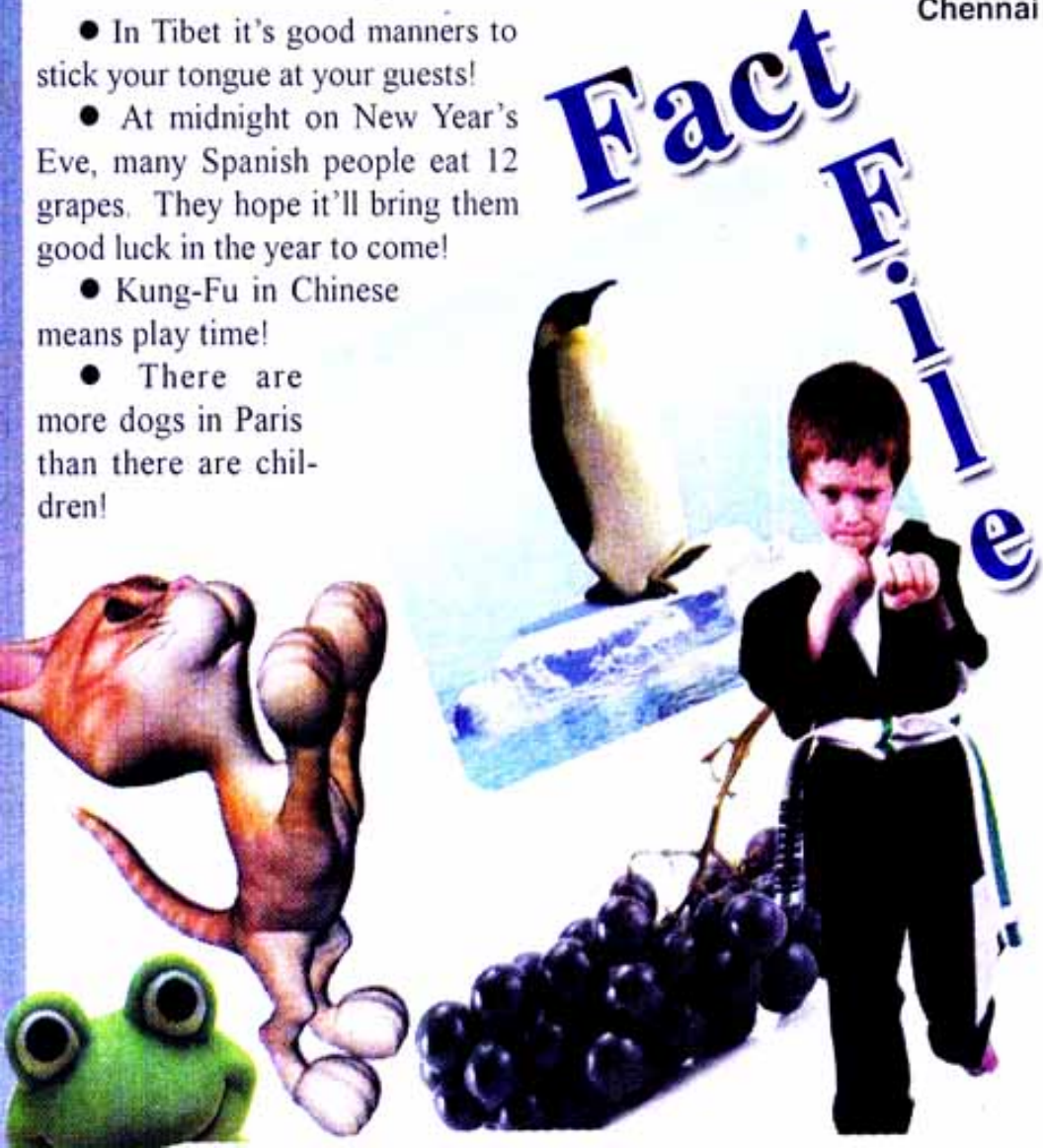
- The only domestic animal that is not mentioned in the Bible is the cat!
- Frogs do not drink water. They absorb water from their surroundings through osmosis.
- The only continent without any reptile is Antartica.
- The penguin is the only bird which can swim, but not fly.

- Mohammad Ajmal, Std.X,
Sumathi Jain High School,
Robertsonpet, K.G.F

- In Tibet it's good manners to stick your tongue at your guests!
- At midnight on New Year's Eve, many Spanish people eat 12 grapes. They hope it'll bring them good luck in the year to come!
- Kung-Fu in Chinese means play time!
- There are more dogs in Paris than there are children!
- There are 20 times as many sheep in Newzealand as there are people!
- At some Greek weddings, guest don't give presents to the bride and groom but pin money onto the bride's dress!

Source: A Facts Book

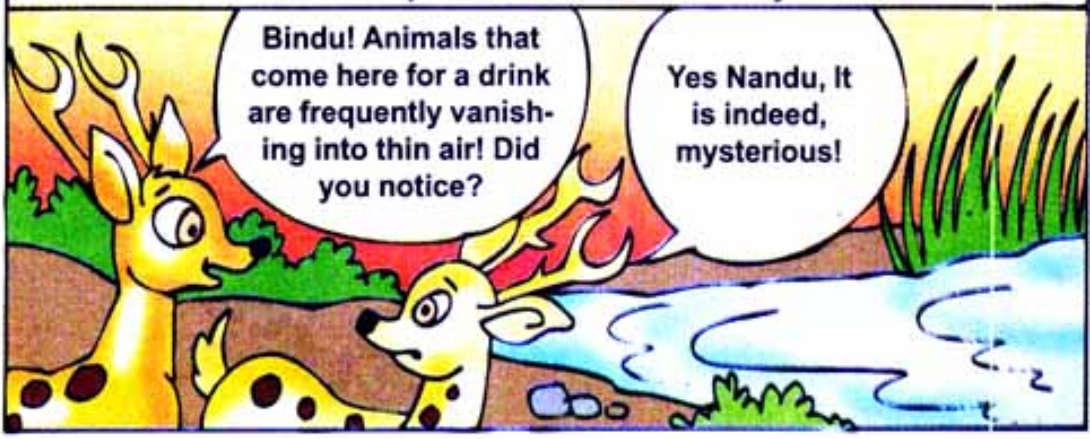
Compiled By: **N.Sarasija, Std.VII,**
P.S.B.B.S.S.S. School,
Chennai



Stronger than an Elephant!

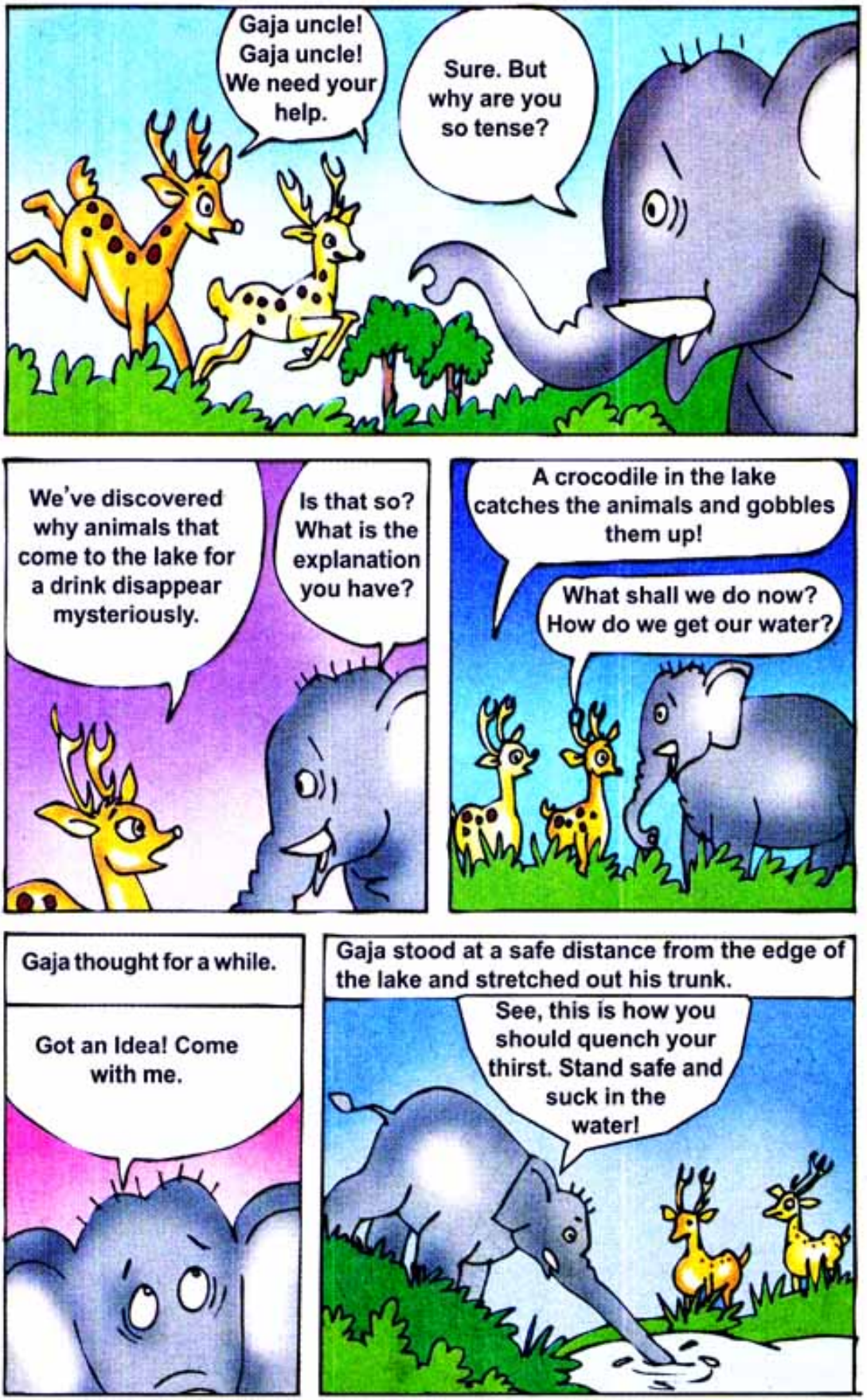
Story: Tracia Paulose Pictures: Pillai

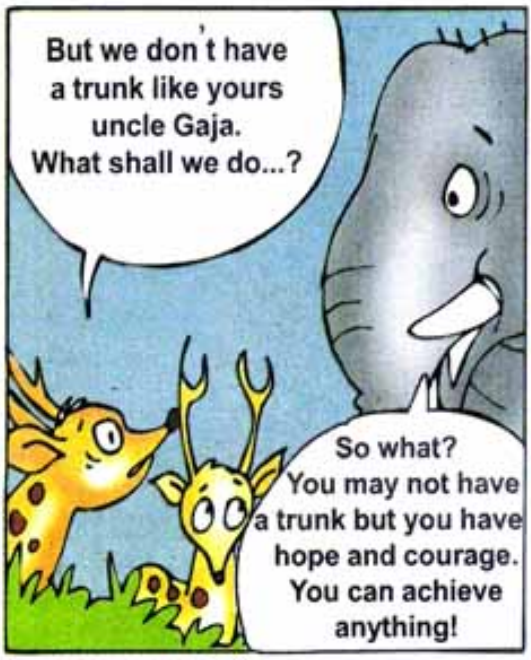
There was a big, beautiful lake in the middle of Fragrant Woods. Many animals would come there to quench their thirst. One day -



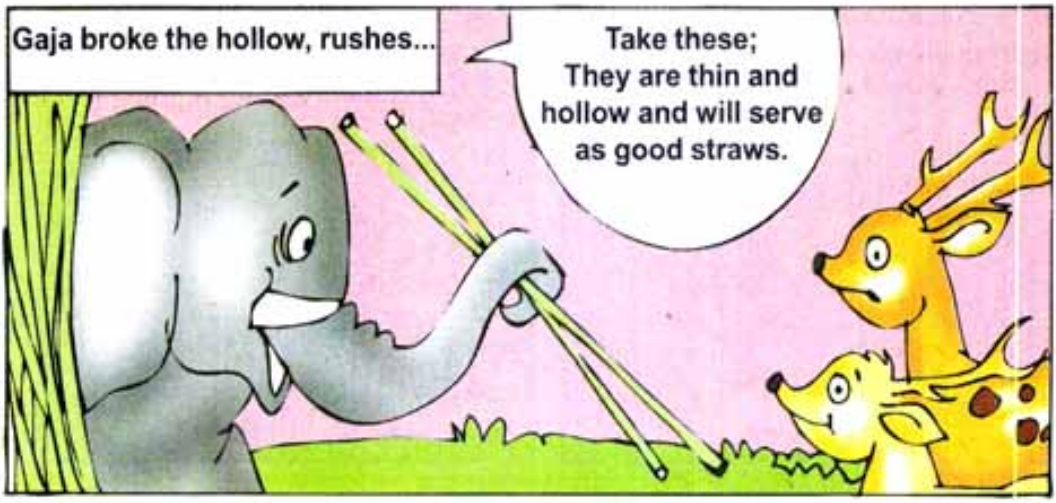
Even as they watched, a rabbit that came to the lake was grabbed by a crocodile.

But rabbit managed to escape!


Gaja uncle! Gaja uncle! We need your help.
Sure. But why are you so tense?
We've discovered why animals that come to the lake for a drink disappear mysteriously.
Is that so? What is the explanation you have?
A crocodile in the lake catches the animals and gobbles them up!
What shall we do now? How do we get our water?
Gaja thought for a while.
Got an Idea! Come with me.
Gaja stood at a safe distance from the edge of the lake and stretched out his trunk.
See, this is how you should quench your thirst. Stand safe and suck in the water!


But we don't have a trunk like yours uncle Gaja. What shall we do...?
So what? You may not have a trunk but you have hope and courage. You can achieve anything!

Do you see those rushes by the water-side?
We don't understand what you mean uncle!


Gaja broke the hollow, rushes...
Take these; They are thin and hollow and will serve as good straws.

Thankyou Gaja Uncle! You've shown us that all problems can be solved.
Now you know that hope and courage, intelligence and imagination are far stronger than an elephant s trunk!

Have Your Say

Irritating, Annoying Tall Claims!

Now-a-days, the moment we switch on the TV, we are flooded with a wide range of advertisements. No favourite programme can be watched without interruption! And just look at the claims made by the ads! A particular brand of toothpaste advertised as 'national' today, turns into an 'international' product overnight, for no good reason! A few days later, the same is flaunted as calcium-enriched.

Even those of us who are well-educated, start believing that the calcium in the toothpaste will help our teeth! Actually, our teeth can never become stronger by external application of calcium. Nor does our hair get nourishment from protein or vitamin enriched shampoos! It is the intake of healthy and fresh food that makes us strong and good-looking.

We should never get carried away by the promos of brands that make these tall claims - though our favourite celebrity may be a brand ambassador for the product.

After all, we cannot eat tooth paste; nor can we use shampoo as salad dressing!

- K.Keerthana Sharma, Std.X,
S.V.Union H.S., Pune

Potter Mania!

How many times have you read Deathly Hallows? Here is a small quiz to test your H.P. knowledge.

1. How many pages are there in 'Deathly Hallows'?
2. What is the last word in 'Deathly Hallows'?
3. What is the full name of Dumbledore?

Harry Potter and the

What Emma Watson did Next

Is there life after Hermione for Emma Watson, the young heroine of the Harry Potter films? Now 17, she tells* Lucy Cavendish *about her first now-wizard role, and how she feels as if she's 'won the lottery':

Emma Watson has been in the public eye for what seems like forever. We all became aware of her eight years ago when she was cast as Hermione Granger in the first Harry Potter film, and it has gone on since then. So may be it's not that surprising that her publicity machine is fretting somewhat. 'It's her first interview away from Potter,' the PR whispers to me on our way to meet the 17-year-old Watson.

Skulking around a kitchen, nervously sipping some juice and looking very pretty and gamine in the current teenage uniform of three-quarter-length leggings, faux leopardskin pumps and brown soft-leather bomber jacket. She has long

4. In Dumbledore's will what object is mentioned as 'entertaining and instructive'?

5. Who dies in the first chapter of the book?

6. Who lost a ear in the journey from privet drive?

7. In the wedding what sign does Xenophilius Lovegood wear?

8. Who dies at the end of the chapter 'The wedding'?

9. What is the name of Draco Malfoy's son?

10. In the story 'The Tale of Beedle the Bard', who spoke to the three brothers?

- J.Vishnu, Std.IX, Shiksha Kendra MHSS, Vellore

Deathly Hallows Quiz

Answers:
1. 607 pages, 2. well, 3. Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, 4. The Tales of Beedle the Bard, 5. Charity Burbage, 6. George, 7. The Deathly Hallows sign, 8. Rufus Scrimgeour, 9. Scorpius, 10. Death

blonde hair, a neat face and very dark plucked eyebrows, and she still seems terribly young, despite everything she's experienced so far in her short life.

In many ways, it's hard to separate her from Hermione Granger. 'Yes, it is, isn't it?' she says all in a rush. 'Sometimes even I get muddled which one I am, because I know Hermione so very well. My little brother, Toby, who's three, gets very cross with me sometimes because when he sees me in Harry Potter he can't understand how I can be Emma and Hermione at the same time,' she says.

This Christmas, though, she is being not Hermione but Pauline Fossil in Ballet Shoes, an adaptation of the popular Noel Streatfeild novel on BBC One. It has a starry cast including Victoria Wood.

Richard Griffiths (Uncle Vernon in the Potter franchise), Eileen Atkins, Harriet Walter and Emilia Fox. The story of three impoverished orphans, Pauline, Petrova and Posy, who have to triumph over adversity by their own talents, has entranced generations of young girls. It is a heartwarming tale full of organza dresses, velvet frocks, tantrums and tears.

How her performance is received is obviously terribly important to Watson. 'It's the first time I've been anything but Hermione,' she says, fiddling with the cushions.

'Pauline is headstrong, so in that way she is quite like Hermione, but she is not academic. In fact, she actually reminds me of myself as a child, much more than Hermione does. Pauline is utterly obsessed with being an actress and I was just like that when I was younger. I dreamt of it. I practised speeches in front of mirrors. Whenever there was a part at school, I went for it. I was probably a bit of a show-off in the sense that any chance to get up and be seen, I did it.' - She sounds like a nightmare! 'I was such a drama queen,' she says, blushing a bit. 'I used to wail and moan and cry, and little things were blown up into being big things. I don't know how my parents stood it, really.' She says she isn't like that at all now. 'I've grown up a bit,' she says. 'I've had to.'

It could be said, she is playing safe with the wholesome Pauline Fossil, unlike Daniel Radcliffe who gained notoriety for stripping off on stage in Equus. Didn't she want to do something a bit more radical, to break out a bit more? 'Oh, God, no!' She says. 'This was nerve-wracking enough. I was so nervous I nearly turned it down. I'd just finished the last Harry Potter film, and it was the summer holidays and I hadn't had a break, but then I thought, "I actually really want to be an actress, a proper actress who makes it her career."

I'm always

expecting to be found out and I thought, "If I'm no good, now is the time to find out."

Does she think she's any good in it? She tells me that on the first day she could barely speak, but that once she had got into it the whole part flowed for her. 'Does that sound mad?' she says. Also, she worked so hard she barely had time to think. 'It was shot over four weeks. Potter movies go on for months. And I'm not classed as a child actor any more, so I don't work restricted hours; I was amazed at how hard it all was. I enjoyed it, though.'

In many ways, Emma Watson's career so far has dealt in fantasy - the fantasy - land of Harry Potter, the fantasy performing-world of the Fossil children. She was only nine years old when the producers of Harry Potter appeared at the Dragon School in Oxford looking for their Hermione. 'I think there were about 18 of us,' she says, 'and we weren't sure who we were auditioning for, but I knew I wanted to be Hermione. I had no interest in any other part. I felt I really was Hermione.' She then went through a rigorous round of auditions and screen tests and pretty quickly she realised she was a contender for the role she had been dreaming about.

(Source: Internet)

- P. Alekhya, Std.X, St.Anns High School, Hyderabad

School Event

Read N Grow!

Everyone at school is excited! Because, after reading and reading, it is the final day of 'Read 'N' grow'. In this competition we the students of Sandipani have to read the books of the authors chosen for the year.

Our Director, Smt. Vijayaa Dhande started this competition in the year 2002. The authors chosen were fantastic. In the year 2002 the author was J.K.Rowling, in 2003 it was Roald Dahl, in 2004 it was Ruskin Bond. In the year 2005 there were two authors Dick-King-Smith and Edith Nesbit. The year 2006 saw two authors again - Anne Fine and C.S. Lewis.

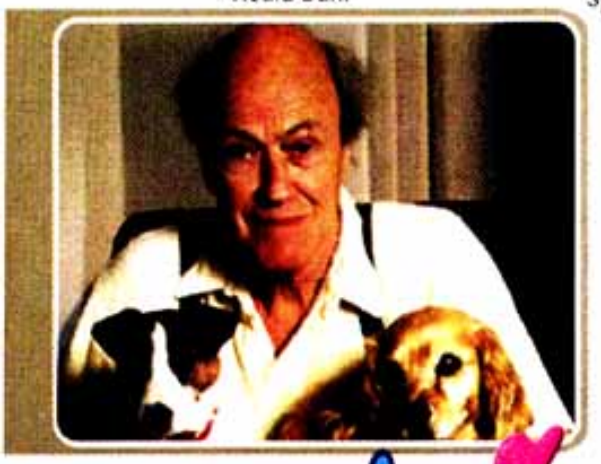
This year it was slightly different - we had four authors! Dan Gutman, James Preller, Anthony Horowitz and V.M.Jones.

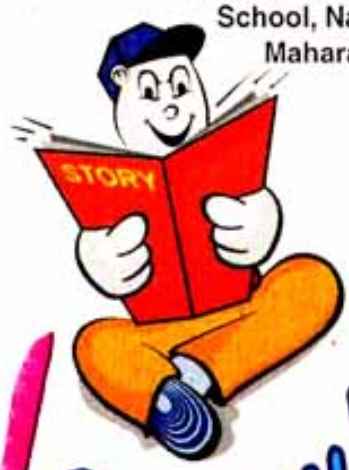
The competition was elevated to inter - school level and 28 schools from all over Nagpur took part in it.

The main objective was that we, the students must get into the habit of reading. We gain knowledge by reading books and we grow into responsible and sensitive individuals.

- Radha Rajendra Harde, Std.VIII, Sandipani School, Nagpur, Maharashtra

• Roald Dahl





• Ruskin Bond

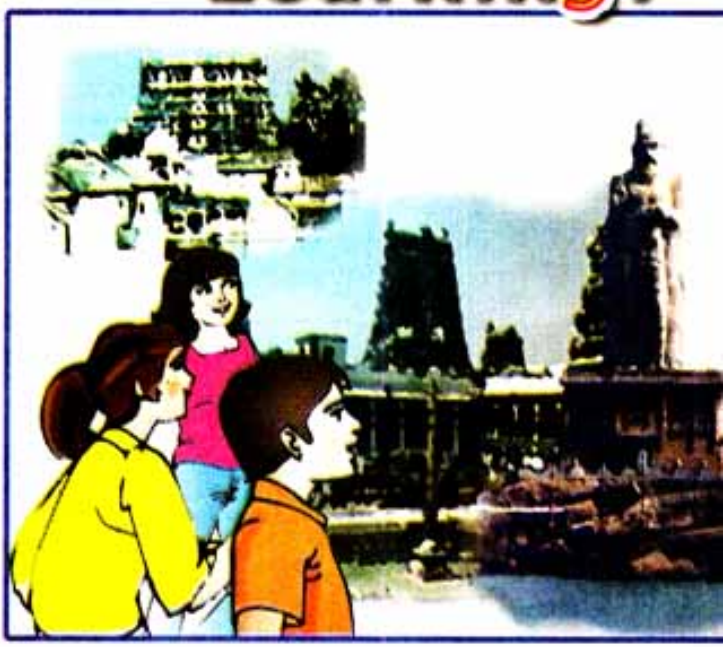
School Event

Four Days of Fun and Learning!

All of us enjoy visiting different places. Recently our school organised a special tour to visit some places in Tamilnadu and Kerala. We went on a four day trip to historical and commercial centres like Madurai, Kanyakumari, Trivandrum and Cochin.

This, helped me to learn facts about these places and although we had already studied about them in our text books the field trip was a rich personal experience.

Madurai city is proof of the greatness of our ancient town planners. Built around Sri Meenakshi Amman temple as its centre, the city has many charming tourist spots. We visited the famous Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal also.



In Kanyakumari, we saw the gigantic Thiruvalluvar statue, Vivekananda Memorial Rock Mandapam, Gandhiji Mandapam and the Kanyakumari Amman Temple. At Kanyakumari, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal meet the great Indian Ocean. Tourists throng the beach at Kanyakumari to witness this spectacle.

In Trivandrum we went to Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swami temple. The Thumba Rocket launching centre here is also famous. We went to Cochin, which is famous for its ship-building industry.

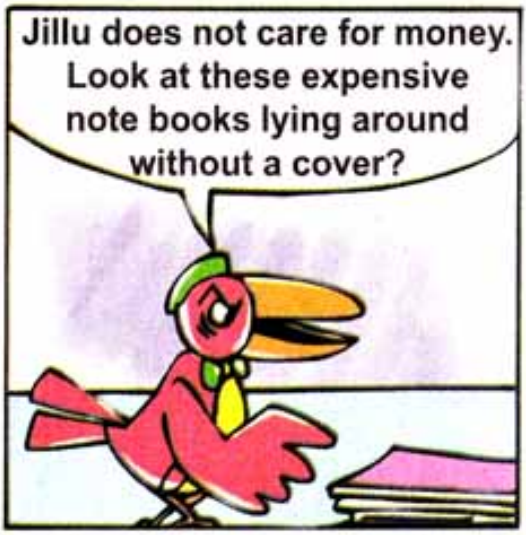
I will cherish this memorable tour for a long time.

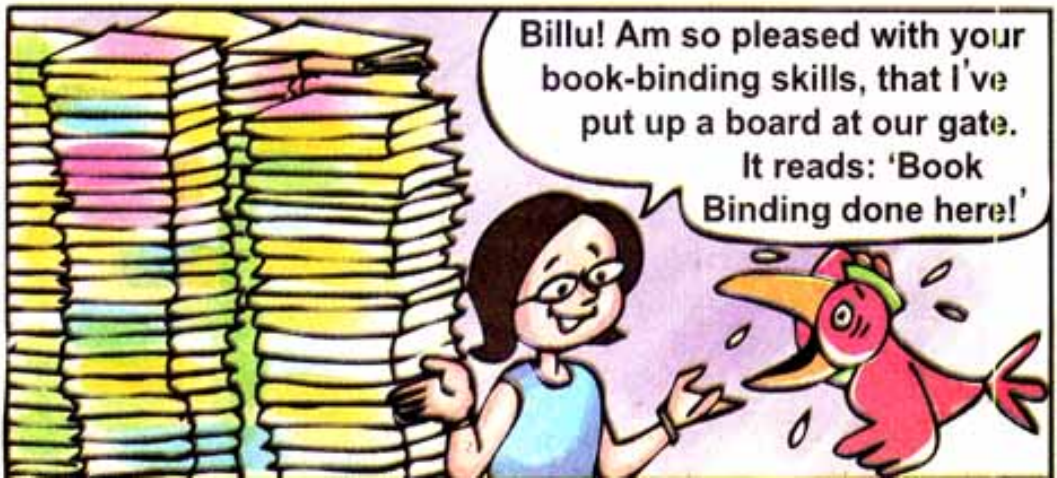
I am looking forward to going on more such tours, year after year. It also enables us to spend more time with our friends and know them better!

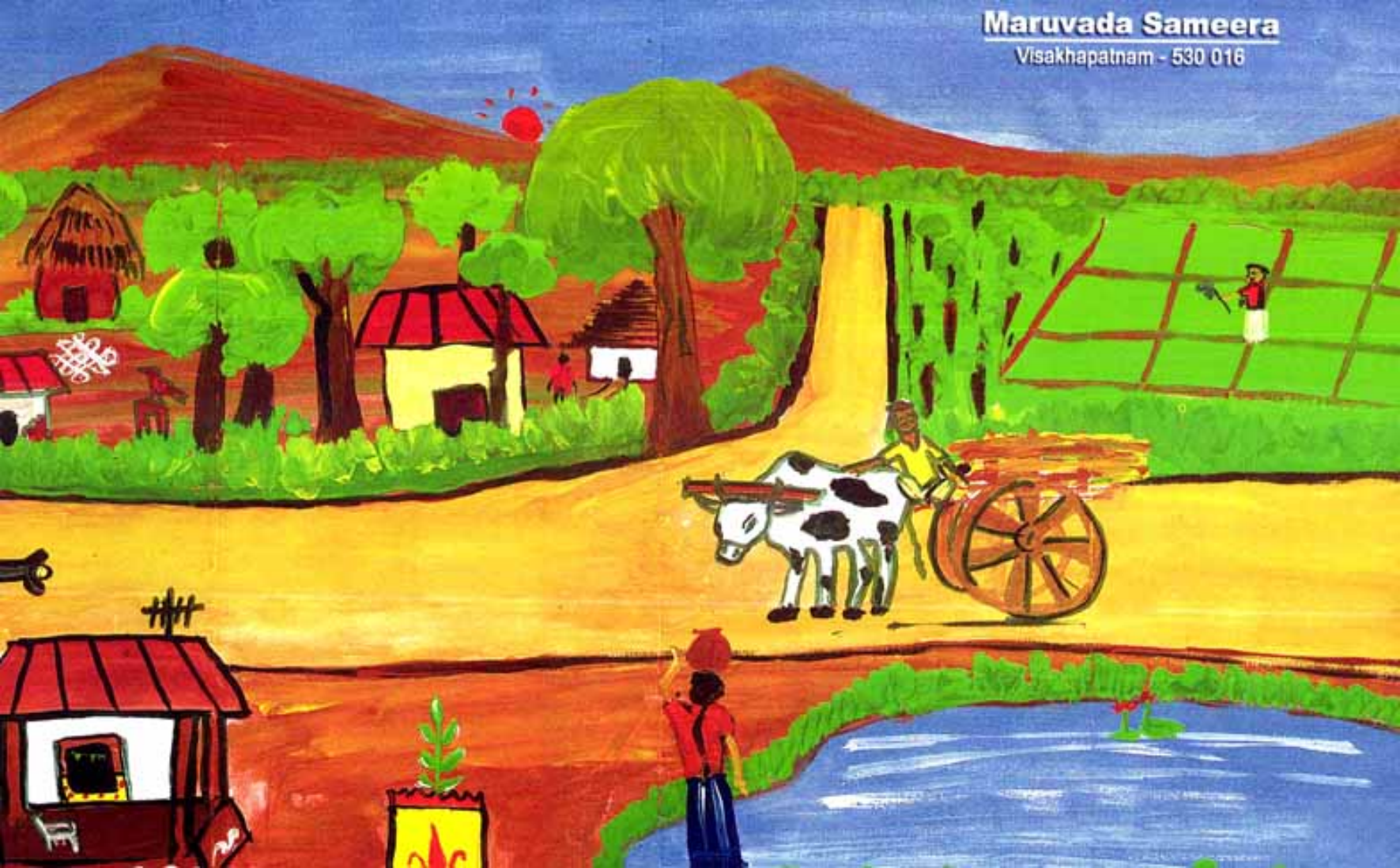
- E. Lakshmi Priya,
Std.V,
GRD - CPF Matric School,Neelambur,
Coimbatore

BILLU

Story, Pictures: PILLAI



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MILKA

WONDER CAKE

IN SIX DELICIOUS FLAVOURS